Application

FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan
Implementation Grant Cycle

Iowa Cancer Consortium
www.canceriowa.org

Applicant Information:

Name of Project Lead: Georgia Hodge
Project Lead Email Address: georgiahodgegh@gmail.com
Project Lead Phone Number: (319) 464-9076
Organization: F.R.I.E.N.D.S. of Community Health
Street Address: 2003 Waterloo Rd. B4
City: Cedar Falls, IA
Zip Code: 50613

Project Details:Breathe

Project Title: ***"Breathe Safe" Radon Testing and Mitigation Project***
Total Amount of Funds Requested for FY26 (up to $25,000): **$25,000.00**

Provide a brief description of your intended project and any relevant background information about your organization. *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*

"BREATHE FRESH"
Radon Testing and Mitigation Project

FRIENDS of Community Health is applying for the Breathe Fresh radon testing and mitigation project in Waterloo, Black Hawk County. As we know, Iowa ranks second in the country for cancer incident rates. According to the Iowa Cancer Registry, lung cancer ranks third for cancer incidents in Black Hawk County but has the highest mortality rate among all cancers.

There are various causes of lung cancer, including smoking and secondhand smoke. Radon is another significant factor contributing to lung cancer. According to **CDC**, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is a colorless, tasteless, and odorless gas found inside buildings and homes. Its radioactive decay products can damage the lungs when inhaled, thereby increasing the risk of lung cancer.

Statistics from the Iowa Cancer Consortium and Black Hawk County indicate that the average radon level in homes in the U.S. is 1.3 pCi/L. The state average is 8.5 pCi/L; however, in Black Hawk County, some homes exhibit levels exceeding 100 pCi/L, particularly on the East side of Waterloo. Therefore, the targeted area for testing and mitigation will be the East side of Waterloo. Other areas will also be included in this project as necessary.

This project consists of three fundamental components: Education, Radon Testing, and Mitigation.

Education: In collaboration with the Black Hawk County Health Department and their Environmental Program Manager, Jared Paramater, "Breathe Safe" will host at least three community educational events during the project period. Efforts will be made to coincide with ongoing events to maximize reach, or alternatively, three standalone events will be developed. These events will educate attendees about radon, its link to lung cancer, and the radon testing and mitigation process. Sign-in sheets will be used to track attendance at these events.

Radon Test Kits: Following the education component, the project will provide free radon test kits to selected individuals. The Project Manager will assist with proper kit installation and ensure accurate data recording for timely readings. Approximately 80 homes are slated for testing, although this number may vary based on test outcomes and mitigation costs. Individuals must agree to scheduling parameters for kit installation and removal. According to Waterloo's Community Development program, specific time frames are required for proper kit readings. Positive initial test results usually necessitate a second test for average reading before mitigation decisions are made. This project will adopt similar practices. We will ensure participants are not currently receiving services from Waterloo Community Development by having them sign a form stating so. Property owners' consent is required before distributing test kits to avoid undue stress if results indicate high radon levels. Confidentiality policies preclude sharing personal information, thus signed forms will track kit distribution and usage.

Mitigation: When a home requires mitigation, a certified mitigator will be contracted to perform the service. Arrangements will be made as to when the mitigation will take place and the mitigator will be paid funds through this project.

How many individuals in Iowa do you expect to reach through your project?

The Breathe Safe Project expects to reach 200-300 individuals. All individuals will not have their homes mitigated. Some will obtain educational information

In which Iowa counties do you expect to reach people through your project?

Black Hawk

Please describe how your project addresses one or more of these priority areas: *(Suggested: 1,000 words or less.)*

- Addressing cancer disparities across the cancer continuum.
- **Addressing cancer prevention and/or early detection.**
- **Expanding successful local projects statewide in Iowa.**
- Formalizing lasting and broad change in cancer control through policy and systems change within organizations, systems, and communities. (Funds may not be used for lobbying.)

Breathe Safe: Radon Testing and Mitigation Project

1. **Addressing Cancer Prevention:** Educating the community about the lung cancer statistics for Black Hawk County is one focus of the "Breathe Safe" project. According to the Iowa Cancer Registry, Lung Cancer has the third highest caner incident rate in Black Hawk County. The Iowa Cancer Consortium and Black Hawk County statistics indicate the average radon level in homes in the US is 1.3 0Ci/L. The average level in the state is 8.5 pCi/L. However, in Black Hawk County, some homes have levels exceeding 100pCi/L, with the higher rates on the East side of Waterloo. This project will educate the community about cancer rates and radon statistics and how radon relates to lung cancer. The education component will be in collaboration with the Black Hawk County Health Department. By educating the community, providing free radon test and providing free radon mitigation if needed, it is the hope to prevent and decrease lung cancer in the community. Because there are not any statistics saying specifically what percentage of lung cancer is caused by radon according to the Iowa Cancer Consortium it is believed that radon is responsible for a significant amount of lung cancer incidents.
2. **Expanding Successful Local Projects:** Currently, the Community Development Housing Program does radon testing for homes that they are currently working on. This program provides radon testing kits and mitigation services to homes that meet the guidelines for mitigation. However, the only individuals that this project would provide radon testing and mitigation are for individuals who are not currently receiving services from this agency or on a waiting list to receive services through the program. The Breathe Safe Project would provide radon testing and mitigation to individuals who are not receiving services from this organization. This would be a guideline for individuals to receive free radon testing kits and free mitigation services. Therefore, any individual who wanted to receive services would have to sign a waiver stating that they are not receiving or on a waiting list to receive services from the Community Development Housing Program.

Please indicate which type of funding you are applying for (choose one):

☐ **Single Year** (applying for one year of funding only)

☒ **Multi-Year: Year 1** (applying for the first year of a two- or three-year project with the intention of applying for Year 2 in FY27, if awarded)

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 2** (FY25 Year 1 awardees only) *

☐ **Multi-Year: Year 3** (FY25 Year 2 awardees only) *

If you are applying for continued funding (funded last year for the same multi-year project), please describe your success and challenges in previous years of funding. *(Suggested: 250 words or less.*)
Click or tap here to enter text.

Which goal(s) and strategy(ies) from the Iowa Cancer Plan will your project support/help to implement? (*Suggested: 100 words or less.)*

This project addresses Priority 6: Reducing exposure to environmental carcinogens, (radon). This will be accomplished by the mitigation of homes that test high in radon.

Strategy C: Reduce exposure to known and probable environmental carcinogens

Action Steps: Educate the public about radon and how it relates to lung cancer. This will be accomplished through community meetings conducted in collaboration with the Black Hawk County Health Department providing Black Hawk County lung cancer stats Nationally, statewide and locally I addition to radon stats for the same demographics.

Project Objectives:

These objectives will serve as the grant deliverables for your project, if awarded. The Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors may request to change, add, or remove objectives with your agreement prior to funding. Where applicable, please include baseline (current) data. Please add additional objectives, if desired.

Objectives should be SMARTIE goals: **Specific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, **T**ime-Based, **I**nclusive, and **E**quitable. The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program put together a helpful resource for SMARTIE objectives. (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)*

***Objective #1: : Deadlines data:** .

- **Target by deadline**: April 30, 2026
- **Hold at least 3 town meetings** during the project to inform the Waterloo Community of Black Hawk County about radon and lung cancer. The goal is to connect with 100-150 individuals by the end of the grant period and share this information on social media. Track attendance using a sign-in sheet at each meeting.

- According to the EPA, Iowa is a Zone 1 state because 71.6% of homes have radon levels of 4pCi/L or above. States with over 50% of homes exceeding this level are considered Zone 1. This objective aims to reach more people virtually through social media, even though that number won't be measurable.
- **Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026)*:** April 30, 2026
- **Baseline data**: Three Community meetings
- **Target by deadline**: April 30, 3026
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***Objective #2: Distribute 140 Radon Test kits** Through community meetings and social media outreach, our goal is to test at least 70 homes for radon. This figure was derived from the Waterloo Community Development Program Manager, who indicated that approximately 15% of homes tested require mitigation. Given the available funds, testing 70 homes is feasible. Typically, two tests are conducted per residence, necessitating 140 test kits in total. This target can be effectively met by implementing a sign-off sheet for radon kit distribution.

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026)*: April 30, 2026
- Baseline data: 140 Radon kits distributed
- Target by deadline: 140 kits/70 individuals

***Objective #3: Provide Free Mitigation to 10 Homes** After testing homes for radon in Waterloo, the Waterloo Community Development program found that 15% of homes tested require mitigation. Therefore, if 70 homes are tested, approximately 11 homes may need mitigation. This number may vary. Keeping a record of homes tested and mitigated will be determined on an ongoing basis. The numbers may change. However, records of radon test results, homes mitigated, and individual mitigation costs will determine how many homes can be tested and mitigated

- Deadline *(funding period is July 1, 2025-May 31, 2026)*: **May 31, 2026**
- Baseline data: **10 Homes Mitigated**
- Target by deadline: May 31, 2026

Project Collaborators:

The Iowa Cancer Consortium seeks to fund collaborative proposals. **At least one collaborator is required per project.** A letter of support is required for each listed collaborator.

Collaborator #1 (required)

Name: Jared Paramater
Organization: Black Hawk County Health Department
Mailing Address: 1407Independence Ave. 5th Floor Waterloo, IA 50703
Phone: (319) 2912413

Email: jparmater@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov

Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Jared Paramater serves as the Environmental Health Program Manager for the Black Hawk County Health Department. Mr. Paramater will deliver presentations on radon statistics and their correlation with lung cancer at community educational events. With extensive experience in environmental health, he effectively engages with community members. I am eager to collaborate with Mr. Paramater.

Collaborator #2 (optional)

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Collaborator #3 (optional)

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mailing Address: Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Email: Click or tap here to enter text.

Please describe the collaborator's proposed responsibilities/role in the project. *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

Evidence & Evaluation:

Resources for Evidence-Based Interventions and Evaluation: (This and additional resources can be accessed at https://canceriowa.org/grants/ifp)

- *The Iowa Cancer Consortium has put together a blog post, A Public Health Professionals Guide to Evidence-Based Cancer Control Interventions (EBIs), which contains state and national resources for public health professionals to visit when selecting interventions.*
- *CDC's Program Evaluation Framework guides public health professionals in conducting program evaluation. It is a practical, nonprescriptive tool, designed to summarize and organize essential elements of program evaluation.*

What scientific evidence is there that your project will be effective? (*Suggested: 500 words or less.)*
Addressing Social Determinants of Health and Chronic Diseases | Advancing Health Equity in Chronic Disease | CDC.

Radon is recognized as a Social Determinant of Health. It is an environmental condition that has the potential to cause **chronic** illness, lung cancer. By collaborating with the Black Hawk County Health Department, **a trusted organization,** the Breathe Safe project aims to educate the community about radon**. Jared, from the health Department, will provide detailed facts and figures about radon and its connection to lung cancer. This is a trusted and** credible information source**.** The health department will provide essential information on radon and its link to lung cancer. This initiative is intended to encourage individuals to test their homes for radon and undertake mitigation if necessary. Such actions would reduce the impact of this particular social determinant of health**, radon, for those who get their homes mitigated, which in turns reduces this Social Determinant of Health.**

How will you evaluate your project? How will you know if you have been successful? (*Suggested: 250 words or less.)*
This project consists of three components with distinct outcomes:

- Education: Educating the community about radon and cancer. Outcomes will be measured by sign-in sheets and attendance counts**, calculating number in attendance and estimating social media connections**
- Radon Test Kits: Providing free test kits to community members. Distribution and mitigation records will show the number of kits given and homes mitigated. Having even one home mitigated will make a difference.

How will you modify your project to meet the unique needs of certain populations? *(Suggested: 500 words or less.)*

I do believe this project is targeted at the population that it will address. However, rather than having a special educational meeting, the project may collaborate with other community events that are already scheduled. It is always better to meet people where they are. Additionally, as far as mitigation, not knowing exactly how much each mitigation will cost for each individual home and how many homes qualify will determine how much money will be used for mitigation.

Budget:

Allowable budget categories have been identified below. If funding is requested within a specific category, a brief explanation or funding justification is required.

Staff Support

- Applicants may request funds for key personnel. Funds may not be requested to supplant existing job responsibilities.
- For any staff support requests through this grant mechanism, a copy of staff resume/CV, estimate of project hours, and list of staff project-related responsibilities must be included along with the budget request. Resumes should be included as an attachment.

Travel

- Travel essential to the proposed project may be funded under this proposal.
- Travel reimbursement is allowed at the following rates: $0.50/mile; in-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) guidelines, which is $37/day for meals ($27.75/day for first and last day of travel); out-of-state travel reimbursements follow Iowa DAS guidelines, which varies by destination. Maximum lodging reimbursement for in-state hotels is $80 plus taxes per night (see the Iowa DAS travel webpage for more information and resources).

Printing and Copying

- Estimate the total number of document pages that will be copied or printed. Use $0.06/page for calculating costs. Example: 500 pages X $.06/page =$30.00

Supplies

- Estimate the unit cost for each item to be purchased and the total number of items needed. Example: 200 brochures X $1.25/brochure = $250.00

Indirect/Administrative Costs

- Applicants for whom the Iowa Cancer Consortium is not serving as a fiscal agent may charge an indirect rate limited to 8% of the direct costs proposed in the budget.
- The total budget, including indirect or administrative costs, may not exceed the total requested funds (maximum of $25,000).
- Administrative costs are those incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be identified readily and specifically with a sponsored program but are still necessary to the organization's operations.
- For example, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation and administrative salaries are generally treated as indirect/administrative costs.
- If there is a need for indirect funding beyond 8% of direct program costs, requests should be written into the applicant's budget and justified heavily.
- The applicant shall maintain documentation to support the administrative cost allocation. The Consortium reserves the right to request the documentation at any time.

Other:

- Equipment
    - Describe equipment needed for project implementation.
    - Equipment costs must be justified, and an explanation provided for equipment use after the grant period ends.
    - Items that cost $5,000 or more are not routinely funded but will be considered on an individual basis.
- Incentives
    - Incentives are an allowable expense only if proven to be effective as part of an evidence-based intervention. The research or evidence case must be outlined.

- Clinical Care/Service Delivery
    - Clinical care, including the provision of medication, vaccinations and/or treatment, is not an allowable expense. Service delivery, including radon mitigation and cancer screening test purchases, will be reviewed individually.
    - Community organizations and collaborators are encouraged to provide financial support for service delivery components.

Please explain your budget in words: *(Suggested: 100 words or less)*

The budget for "Breathe Safe" is detailed and straightforward. The majority of the funds are allocated to radon test kits, amounting to $1,920.00, and mitigation efforts totaling $16,000.00, bringing the overall budget to $17,920.00.

Given the extensive paperwork required for this project, a copier/printer is requested. The project manager dedicates approximately 30 hours per month on average, with slightly more than half of these hours charged to the project budget. The remaining expenses are categorized as miscellaneous.

Use the table below to complete your proposed budget:

Reminder: Funding period is July 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026. This is an 11-month period, not a full year.

Budget Items and Explanation	Grant Funds Requested	Other Funding	Total Funds for Project
If possible, please divide them into categories. Examples include staff support, travel, supplies, equipment, etc. If service delivery or incentives are included within the budget, please include a statement of need along with each budget item.	*Funds being requested from the Iowa Cancer Consortium.*	*Include in-kind support, volunteer hours, collaborator financial support, and other types of financial support.*	*Include requested Iowa Cancer Consortium funds + items outlined in the Other Funding category.*
Staff Support			
$35.00/hr x20 hrs/month x 9 months$ $700.00/month for 9 months	$ 6,300.00		$6,300.00
$35.00.hr x 10h/month 9 months = 3,150.00 $35.00/hr30 hr/month x2 months = $2,100		$ 3,150.00 $2,100,00	$5,350.00
Travel			
Printing			
Supplies			
Misc	$ 530.00		
Shipping			
Other			
160 Radon Test Kits $12.00 each = $2,400	$ 1,920.00		$ 1,920.00
Mitigation Services 8 @ $2,000.00 -$16,000	$ 16,000.00		$16,000.00
Copy Machine $250.00	250,00		$ 250,00
Totals:	$$25,000.00	$$5,250.00	$30,250.00

Submit your completed application, along with letters of support from all collaborators and resumes/CVs for anyone whose salary will be supported by requested funds, to orton@canceriowa.org by 11:59pm (CDT) on May 14, 2025.

Black Hawk County Health Department
1407 Independence Avenue • 5th Floor • Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 291-2413 • www.BHCPublicHealth.org

Letter of Support

FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant Cycle

May 13th, 2025

Iowa Cancer Consortium
PO Box 859
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Dear Iowa Cancer Consortium Board of Directors,

I write on behalf of **F.R.I.E.N.D.S.** in support of "**Breathe Safe**" proposed to the Iowa Cancer Consortium as part of the FY26 Iowa Cancer Plan Implementation Grant, Invitation for Proposals.

Black Hawk County will fulfill the following roles in this partnership:

- **Assist with radon education at community events.**
- **Provide existing pipeline for at-cost radon kits in support of this project.**

Georgia is a dedicated community member and health worker in the City of Waterloo, and we have collaborated on a number of health-oriented projects in the past, specifically radon education and outreach. The Breathe Safe project promises to expand assistance to underserved communities through information (community events), surveillance (radon testing kits), and mitigation assistance. These efforts are to be lauded and align nicely with the Iowa Cancer Consortium's goals by addressing health disparities in Black Hawk County, as well as in addressing cancer prevention and early detection. Black Hawk County Public Health is pleased to be a part of this project and supports F.R.I.E.N.D.S. efforts to make a healthier and safer community.

Sincerely,
Jared Parmater, Environmental Health Program Manager
Black Hawk County Public Health

Black Hawk County Health Department
1407 Independence Avenue • 5th Floor • Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 291-2413 • www.BHCPublicHealth.org

Georgia Hodge

2003 Waterloo Rd. #B4 Cedar Falls, IA 50613 - (319) 464-9076 - georgiahodgegh@gmail.com

AREAS OF EXPERTISE & CORE STRENGHS

- Leadership
- Management
- Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Organizational
- Program Development & Planning
- Creating Collaboration
- Grant Writing

ACCREDICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Community Health Worker
- Licensed CNA
- Certified Critical Incidence Stress Management Officiator
- Certificate in Christian Counseling

EDUCATION

- Health Service Administration – Upper Iowa

VOLUNTEER

- Health Ministry at Antioch Baptist Church Waterloo, IA

SKILLS

- Microsoft Office
- Zoom

CAREER OVERVIEW

Passionate Community Health Worker with over 10 years of experience Community Health. Has written and developed social media promotional material and event collaborations. Highly motivated and organized with exceptional written and verbal communication skills.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Community Health Organization

- Provide Advocacy services and supportive services to individuals and their loved ones facing cancer and life altering illnesses
- Prepared grant applications, organized health events, developed collaboration with various stakeholders
- Member of the Iowa Cancer Consortium and various subcommittees such as Health Equities and Colorectal
- Collaborative work with Black Hawk County Health Department.
- Developed projects to help decrease the burden of cancer in targeted populations
- Assist individuals with coping strategies for complicated health or medical situations

SPLASH OF COLOR

Waterloo, Iowa

- Educating and supporting African Americans in their fight with Breast Cancer
- Helped organize annual fundraiser walks in the community

AARP SCSEP

Waterloo, Iowa

- Developed activities for elderly individuals according to their individual skill levels
- I interviewed and accessed individuals from various backgrounds to help determine eligibility and placement on the program
- Matched individual with training programs by matching their abilities and capabilities

IOWA CANCER CONSORTIUM

Black Hawk County Community Outreach Worker Waterloo, Iowa

- Connected with various Health entities to connect them with the Iowa Consortium.
- Provide cancer control outreach and partnership development to support implementation of the **Iowa Cancer Plan** within African American/Black communities in Black Hawk County, Iowa
- Participated in and chaired the Health Equity Workgroup
- Attended in various workshops and panels to increase knowledge of the burden of cancer and to create a better quality of life for those impacted by cancer
-