



State of Minnesota IAQ Projects

It was brought to our attention that the State of Minnesota has unspent federal dollars available for indoor air quality projects. Approximately \$190M is available and must be spent within the next five months or lost. We believe the State will soon be reviewing potential IAQ projects and funding them if they can be completed quickly. There likely will be emphasis on prisons and mental-health treatment facilities; i.e. Anoka-Hennepin and St. Peter Treatment Centers.

If you have outstanding proposals for State of Minnesota IAQ work you may want to remind your contacts with the State. If you are aware of needed IAQ projects that can be completed by February of 2023, you may want to make contact with the appropriate people. These jobs are more likely to be contracted for directly with the State of Minnesota due to the time constraints.

SMART Local No. 10 has been working with the Governor's Office on this issue. If you run into a roadblock or believe there is a great opportunity being overlooked, you can contact Colin Beere, Government Affairs, or Matt Fairbanks, Business Manager, at Local No. 10.

More Funding for IAQ Coming

1. American Rescue Plan funding to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in buildings

States and local governments can draw on \$350 billion in federal COVID-19 aid from the American Rescue Plan to improve ventilation systems in buildings where people are gathering including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, office buildings, commercial buildings, multi-family residential buildings and transportation hubs. This funding can be used for the assessment, updates, repairs, installation, and other projects to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in buildings. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. The Treasury Department recommends that recipients ensure that the inspection, testing,

commissioning, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrading of ventilation systems is performed by a skilled, trained, and certified workforce.

An overview of this funding is available on the Treasury Department's [website](#) and its [guidance](#) regarding how the funds can be used to install and improve ventilation systems is outlined on page 14-17.

Additionally, schools can draw on \$122 billion in federal funding through the [Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Fund](#), provided in the American Rescue Plan Act to improve indoor air quality and ventilation in buildings. This funding is available to K-12 schools until September 20, 2024. Guidance and information on how this funding can be used to improve ventilation in schools is available on the Department of Education's [website](#).

2. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to improve indoor air quality in buildings

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides billions of dollars to different types of buildings including [transportation facilities](#), [public schools](#), [non-profits](#), [airport terminals](#), [federal buildings](#) and residential and commercial buildings to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in buildings. Different programs are available for different entities including state, local, tribal, and territorial governments as well as other partners and each program has a different program deadline. A guidebook about these programs, including eligible recipients, available funding, eligible uses and key dates is available [here](#).

Become a Ventilation Verification Contractor

Ventilation Verification is a physical assessment of the existing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) infrastructure. The assessment is performed by a skilled, trained, and certified technician. The resulting assessment report allows design professionals to make recommendations for adjustments, repairs, upgrades, or replacements with reduced assumptions. School districts and building owners can then make educated decisions on the proposed improvements.

Federal funding recommends that the IAQ work be performed “by a skilled, trained, and certified workforce.” Contractors can become certified to perform Ventilation Verification and be listed on the public website; <https://www.betterairinbuildings.org/>.

The National Energy Management Institute has developed a free course that prepares a contractor to offer Ventilation Verification services. By completing this course, you will receive Continuing Education Units (CEU) and can request to be listed on the Ventilation Verification website as a Contractor offering Ventilation Verification services.

To access the course:

1. Click on <https://training.nemionline.org/>
2. Login **or** click on “Create New Account” (at bottom of page).
3. Fill in the required fields and click on “Create my Account” (at bottom of page).
4. You will be sent a confirmation email, for which you use to confirm your account.
5. Once logged in, enter the **Enrollment Code - hez5ip**