

Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: Making an Impact!

Presented by:

National Center for Healthy Housing

National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

@nchh #FindFixFund

bit.ly/FindFixLEAD


National Safe and Healthy
Housing Coalition

#SHHcoalition

Chris Corcoran - Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program, NSHHC- Policy Committee Co-Chair

Julie Kruse - National Center for Healthy Housing

Build the Case for Lead Poisoning Prevention with YOUR Elected Officials

Engage local elected officials in support of your programs

Engaging Elected Officials

First of All



Elected Officials 101

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- Remember: They Work for You
- They Love Free Publicity
- They Love Data, Stories
- Local is Sometimes Better



Start Local



- Access Access Access
- Connections to Statehouse or DC
- Impromptu Moments
- Become a Source

Event Planning

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- Location Location Location
- Take Advantage of Infrastructure
- Know Who to Invite
- Clear Dates

 Connecticut Children's
Healthy Homes Program

Your Events Have Impact

- Stories = Leverage
- Downstream Impact



INVITE

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Invite your member of Congress to Speak at Your Event!

Or to:

- Visit your site
- Simply meet in their district office

Why?

- Your member of Congress needs to see the full effect that lead poisoning has on his/her constituents and community.
- Help him/her prioritize lead poisoning among their constituents.

PICK A DATE

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Invite your member of Congress to visit your program or community during an upcoming recess, when they will be in your home state or district:

October 1 – November 11, 2016

Oct. 23-29, 2016 is Lead Poisoning Prevention Week!

STEP 1

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Step 1: Draft your invitation



Visit

www.nchh.org/Policy/FiveThingsYouCanDo/MeetYourMemberofCongressLocally

to download the sample letters provided today!

Sample Letters

Inviting your Member of Congress to an event or to visit your site:

Requesting a meeting with your Member of Congress locally at their district office:

The Honorable [Full Name of Representative]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
ATTN: Scheduler

OR The Honorable [Full Name of Senator]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

OR Dear Senator [Last Name],

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. [Last Name],

As a champion for [the health of families in your district / vulnerable populations], it is my honor to invite you to be the keynote speaker at our [Event Name] event on [Date and time] at [Location]. [Briefly describe the event, and any programs or initiatives you are launching there]. The event will provide visibility and awareness around a critical public health issue; the health effects of substandard housing on children, families, and communities across America – and what we can do about it.

[Your Organization] works to promote the health of residents in your district by the advancement of an integrated approach for safe and healthy housing through collaborative community initiatives, applied research, and policy. [Describe the program in a bit more detail].

A recent study from the Centers for Disease Control shows an alarming and consistent connection between low-level lead exposure and the ability of children to do well in school. Costs stemming from lead exposure are well established; one recent estimate found the societal costs of lead poisoning to be over \$50 billion in a single year, and costs to the special education system alone are estimated at \$38,000 over three years per impacted lead-poisoned child. Lead exposure cannot be overlooked as a critical public health issue. Similarly, asthma is frequently triggered by hazards in the home, such as rodents, cockroaches, mold, and poor indoor air quality; home-based asthma interventions are effective in reducing asthma symptom days and trips to the emergency room.

Can we look forward to your participation? _____

To confirm your availability with date and time preferences, please contact _____.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Look up your Representative here and find the location of the district offices on their website]
The Honorable [Full Name of Representative]

Dear Congressman [Last Name],

[Your Organization] would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss with you the impact of substandard housing on [Your Community/State]. I am writing to request a meeting with you at your district office.

Poor quality housing causes health problems including lead poisoning, asthma neurological diseases, and cancer. [Your Organization] is dedicated to improving housing quality in our community to improve resident health. [If you wish, describe the program or initiative in greater detail, and local data on healthy housing]. These programs have carry enormous benefits and cost savings. For every \$1 spent to reduce lead hazards in homes, there is a benefit of over \$17. Asthma home services show a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00 for every dollar invested. We'd really appreciate meeting with you to share information about housing quality, its impact on local residents, and how we're helping to improve health locally.

We are available to meet on [list as many available dates as possible] at your office.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

STEP 2

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Step 2: Find how to invite your member of Congress



Visit

www.house.gov

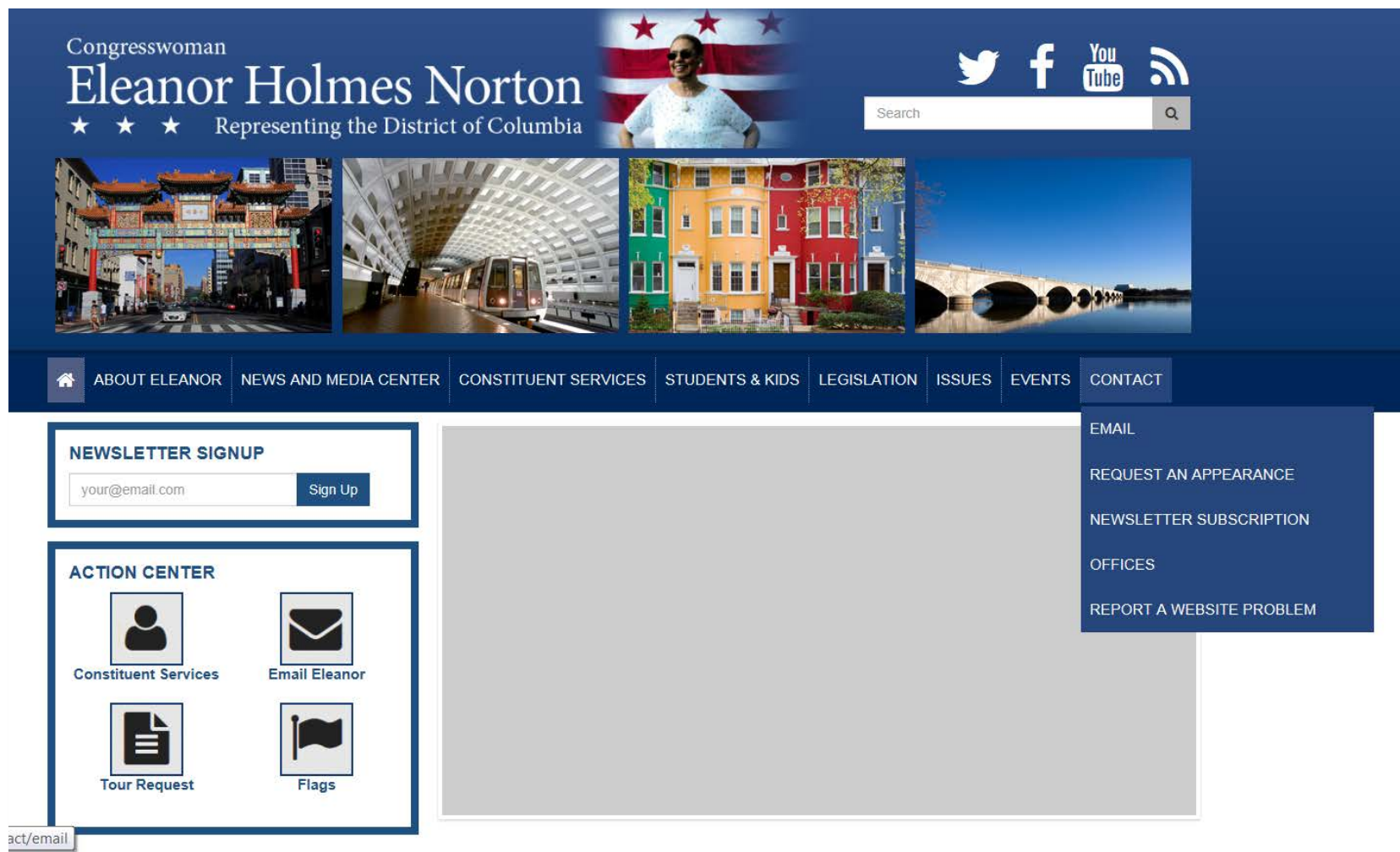
to find your Representative

www.senate.gov/senators/contact/

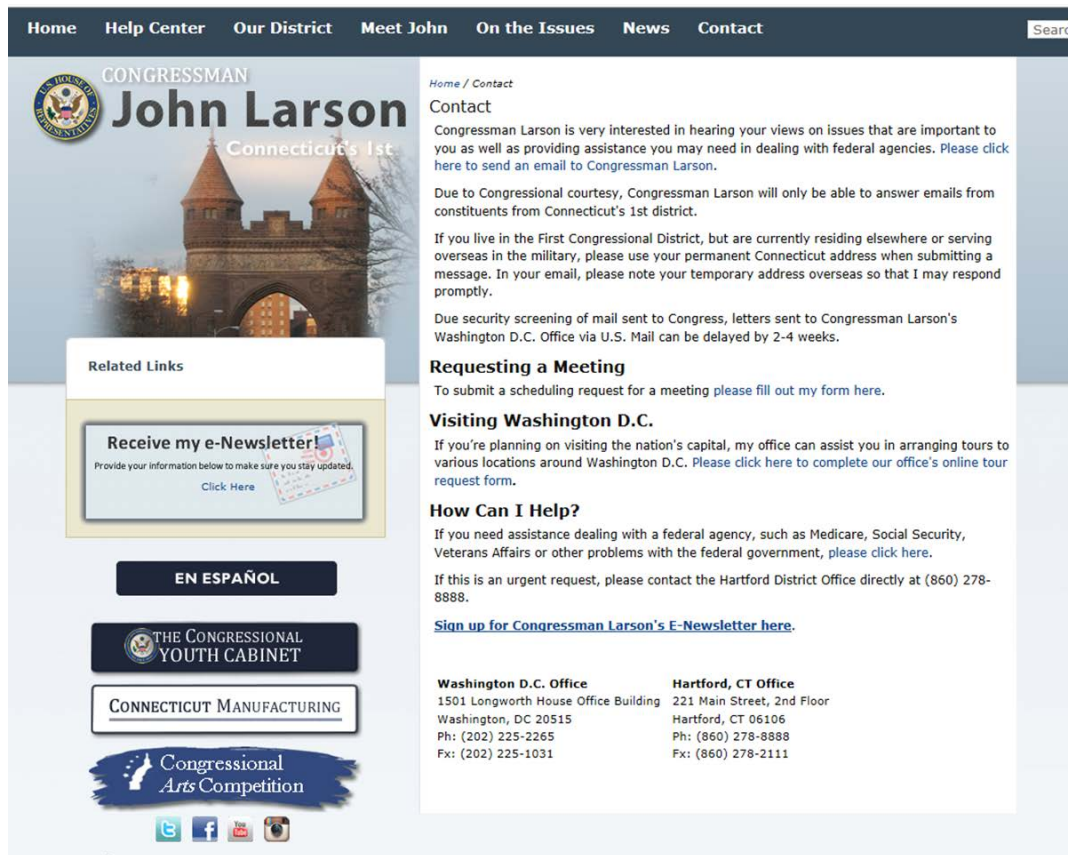
to find your Senators

Go to their websites to find the addresses of their district offices and how to reach their schedulers.

Sample Websites



Sample Website



STEP 3

Step 3: Follow-up

Send the meeting request or invitation to the scheduler AND follow up by phone...

PERSISTENTLY!



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STEP 4

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Step 4: Be prepared

Visit

www.nchh.org/Policy/FiveThingsYouCanDo/MeetYourMemberofCongressLocally

to use our *state fact sheets* on healthy homes and review some talking points on *healthy homes*, *lead poisoning* and *asthma*.



Talking Points and State Fact Sheets

LEAD POISONING

THE PROBLEM

- Over half a million U.S. children 1-5 years old are lead poisoned.ⁱ
- Childhood exposure to lead has lifelong consequences, including decreased IQ and cognitive function, developmental delays, and behavior problems.
- 24 million homes in the U.S. have lead-based paint.
- No safe blood lead level in children.
- Lead poisoning is 100% preventable.

THE COST

- Educational system costs are high.

ASTHMA

THE PROBLEM

- 26 million people in the United States have asthma.^{i, ii}
 - 1 in 11 children and 1 in 12 adults have asthma.
- Asthma is a leading chronic disease among children in the U.S.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Wide disparities exist among asthma sufferers:
 - The rates of hospitalization are higher for African Americans than for Caucasians.
 - Children have two to three times the rate of asthma as adults.
- Asthma is frequently triggered by indoor air quality.

THE COST

- Asthma costs the U.S. \$56 billion annually.



National Center for
Healthy Housing



National Safe and Healthy
Housing Coalition

Maryland Healthy Housing Fact Sheet

The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families.ⁱ Nearly six million families live in housing rivaling that of developing countries, with broken heating and plumbing, holes in walls and windows, roach and rodent infestation, falling plaster, crumbling foundations, and leaking roofs. Millions more in all 50 states live in housing with serious health and safety hazards, including mold, exposed wiring, radon, unvented heaters, toxic chemicals, broken stairs, missing smoke detectors, and other hazards.ⁱⁱ Home-based interventions to address health hazards improve health and have a large return on investment: Each dollar invested in lead paint hazard control results in a return of \$17 to \$221,ⁱⁱⁱ and each dollar invested in asthma home-based interventions that include education and remediation results in a return of \$5.30 to \$14.00.^{iv}

The need in Maryland

Thirty-seven percent of children in Maryland live in households with high housing cost burden, and 14% of children in Maryland live in poverty.^v The potential effect of high housing cost burden and poverty on children's health is significant.

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National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

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Educate Members of Congress

About the **need for CDC and HUD Lead, Healthy Homes, and Asthma Programs** in their states and districts

On the **benefits for health and cost savings** provided by these programs



EDUCATE

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CDC's Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- ✓ We need **Tracking** to determine blood lead levels in children in **ALL FIFTY** states
- ✓ Outreach and Education to promote **Healthy Homes interventions proven** to improve health
- ✓ **Data** to guide HUD remediation programs



EDUCATE

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HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

- ✓ **identify and control lead paint hazards** in eligible housing
- ✓ **Each dollar invested** in lead hazard control **returns at least \$17**
- ✓ when in the house addressing lead **remediate other hazards** such as **mold, pests, and radon**, that can cause **asthma, cancer & other disease**



501(c)(3) Public charities can lobby

- A charity's lobbying must be an "insubstantial" part of its overall activities
- Most tax practitioners generally advise that charities can safely devote 3-5% of their overall activities toward lobbying

Source: http://bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Lobbying_under_the_insubstantial_part_test.pdf

What is lobbying?

- Communication
- With a legislator (or staff)
- That expresses a view about specific legislation

In order for an action to be considered lobbying it **MUST contain all** of the above elements.

Source:

www.nonprofnetwork.org/Resources/Documents/Resources/Public%20Policy/Alliance%20for%20Justice-What%20is%20Lobbying.pdf

FY 2017 Appropriations

LOBBYING



HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH): FY 2017

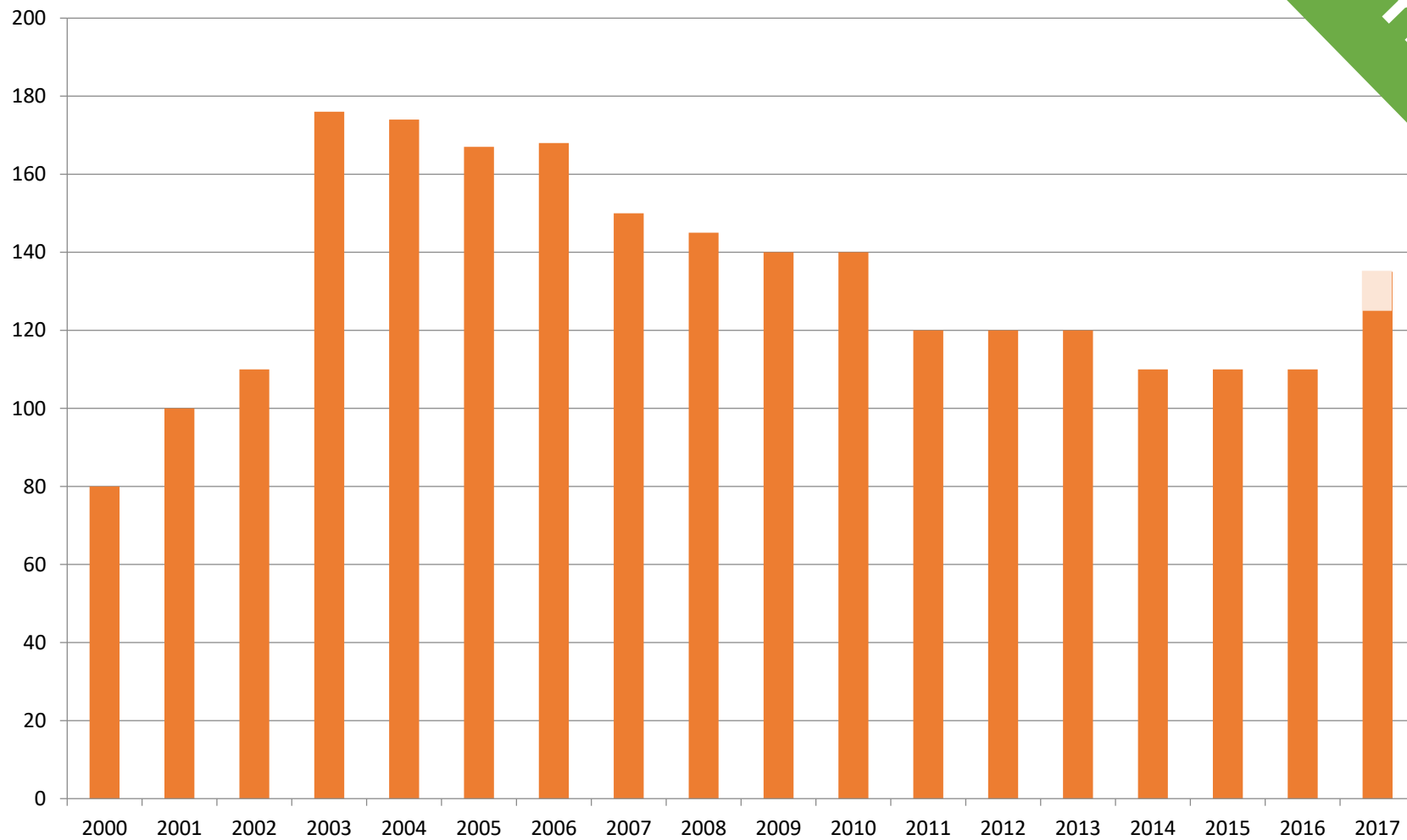
HUD OLCHCC Totals

Appropriation		National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition	Senate, H.R. 2577	House
FY 03	FY 16	FY 17 Request	FY 17 Passed Senate	FY 17 Passed House Subcommittee
\$176,000	\$110,000	\$230,000	\$135,000	\$130,000

Dollars in thousands

HUD OLHCHH funding history by fiscal year (\$ millions)

LOBBYING



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(Prop.)
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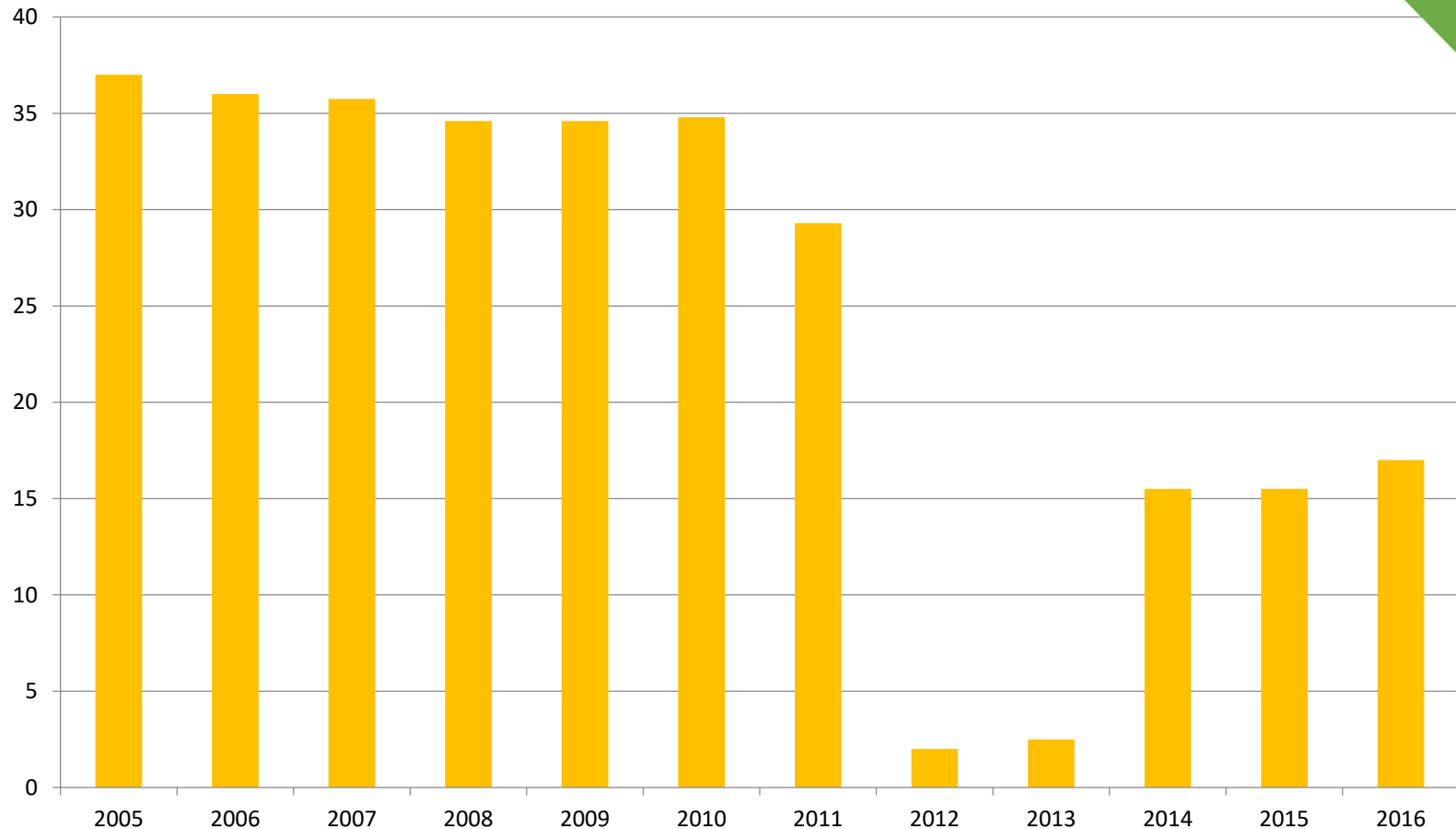
CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control Programs: FY 2017

Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention and National Asthma Control Program Totals

	Appropriation					NSHH Coalition	Senate	House
	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14 & FY 15	FY 16	FY 17 Request	FY 17	FY 17
HH and LPP	\$29,257	\$1,995	\$2,448	\$15,528	\$17,000	\$35,000	\$17,000	\$17,500

CDC Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention funding history by fiscal year (\$ millions)

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Julie Kruse

jkruse@nchh.org

(202) 280-1982

www.nchh.org ♦ [@NCHH](https://twitter.com/NCHH) ♦ facebook.com/HealthyHousing

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National Center for
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Chris Corcoran

Ccorcoran@connecticutchildrens.org

860-837-6242

www.nchh.org ♦ [@NCHH](https://twitter.com/NCHH) ♦ facebook.com/HealthyHousing

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