Healthy Homes Policy and Advocacy

Sarah Goodwin
Policy Analyst
National Center for Healthy Housing

June 25, 2020

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

Outline

- Introduction to federal healthy housing policy

- The appropriations process

- How to take action

- Q&A

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

Federal Agencies

The big three:

- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

And other programs at:

- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Department of Agriculture (USDA)

HUD

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

OLHCHH
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

Supports state and local programs to **reduce lead hazards from paint, dust, and soil** in homes.

Enforces the Lead Safe Housing Rule and other regulations, together with program offices.

Ensures **disclosure of known lead** during rent or sale.

CDBG
Community Development Block Grants

Many states and localities use these funds to **provide match funding for HUD lead and healthy homes grants** and for making affordable homes lead-safe when rehabilitating them.

HOME
HOME Investment Partnership Program

HOME grants to state and localities are used for **building, buying, and rehabilitating affordable housing**.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

HUD

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

OLHCHH
Office of Lead
Hazard Control
and Healthy
Homes

Supports state and local programs to **reduce lead hazards from paint, dust, and soil** in homes.

Enforces the Lead Safe Housing Rule and adopted **regulations**, together with program offices.

Ensures **disclosure of known lead** during rent or sale.

$290 million

CDBG
Community
Development
Block Grants

Many states and localities use these funds to **provide match funding to HUD's lead and healthy homes grants** and for making affordable homes lead-safe when rehabilitating them.

$3 billion

HOME
HOME
Investment
Partnership
Program

HOME grants to state and localities are used for **building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing.**

$1.25 billion

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

CDC

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Collects screening data to target prevention in high-risk areas.

Awards grants to states and cities for blood lead surveillance, education, coordination, and local program development.

Provides guidance to clinicians and allied professions.

ASTHMA
National Asthma Control Program

Funds states, localities, and others to **improve** asthma surveillance, **build** coalitions that implement interventions, **translate** asthma guidelines into public health practice, **collect and analyze** data not available elsewhere, and **increase** asthma awareness.

EPHT
Environmental Public Health Tracking

Delivers a core set of health, exposure, and hazards data, information, and tools to enable **analysis, visualization, and reporting of insights drawn from data.**

EHL
Environmental Health Laboratory

Helps states **measure and track exposure** to harmful chemicals, including those that may come from the home by providing **funding, expertise, training, and quality assurance** to state public health laboratories.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

CDC

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

HEALTHY HOMES AND LEAD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program — Collects screening data to **target prevention** in high-risk areas. Awards grants to states and cities for blood lead screening, education, coordination, and local program development. **Provides guidance** to clinicians and allied professions.

$37 million

ASTHMA National Asthma Control Program — Funds states, localities, and others to **improve** asthma surveillance, **build** coalitions that implement interventions, **translate** asthma guidelines into public health practice, collect and analyze data not available elsewhere, and **increase** asthma awareness.

$30 million

EPHT Environmental Public Health Tracking — Delivers a core set of health, exposure, and hazards data, information, and tools to enable analysis, visualization, and reporting of insights drawn from data.

$34 million

EHL Environmental Health Laboratory — Helps states **measure and track exposure** to harmful chemicals, including those that may come from housing. Provides funding, expertise, training, and quality assurance to state public health laboratories.

$65 million

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

EPA

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

LEAD
Lead Risk Reduction Program

Lead Categorical Grants Program

Updates and supports implementation of **lead hazard standards**.

Requires lead-safe work practices and ensures paint hazards are **abated safely**.

Ensures treatment of residential **drinking water**.

Ensures **disclosure of known lead** during rent or sale.

RADON
Indoor Air: Radon

Radon Categorical Grants Program

Promotes **actions to reduce health risks from radon** (National Radon Action Plan).

Promotes **radon-reducing features in new** home and school construction and **test/fix radon in existing** homes.

CHILDREN
Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination

Ensures that EPA programs protect children's environmental health by developing regulations, improving policy, implementing community-level programs, and collecting/interpreting data.

IAQ
Reduce Risk from Indoor Air

Educates and equips individuals and organizations to reduce health risks from poor indoor air quality, including **radon, secondhand smoke, carbon monoxide exposure, and asthma triggers** like mold, pests, and dust.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

EPA

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition publishes annual funding requests for the programs in green.

LEAD
Lead Risk Reduction Program

Lead Categorical Grants Program

Updates and supports implementation of **lead hazard standards**.

Requires training so that **practitioners** ensure paint hazards are **abated safely**.

Ensures treatment of residential **drinking water**.

Ensures **disclosure of known lead** during rent or sale.

$27 million

RADON
Indoor Air: Radon

Radon Categorical Grants Program

Promotes **actions to reduce health risks from radon** (National Radon Action Plan).

Promotes radon-reducing features in new home and school construction and **test/fix radon in existing** homes.

$10 million

CHILDREN
Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency Coordination

Ensures that EPA programs **protect children's environmental health** by developing regulations, improving policy, informing community-level programs, and collecting/interpreting data.

$6.5 million

IAQ
Reduce Risk from Indoor Air

Educates and equips individuals and organizations to reduce health risks from poor indoor air quality, including **radon, secondhand smoke, carbon monoxide, exposure, and asthma triggers like mold, pests, and dust.**

$13.7 million

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets

And Others…

- Other programs at HHS, USDA, and DOE fund services that support:
  - Health, nutrition, and development for children up to age five
  - Pre- and postnatal care and home visits for women and infants
  - Affordable rural housing
  - Veterans housing
  - Weatherization and energy assistance for low-income homes
  - Development of energy efficiency solutions

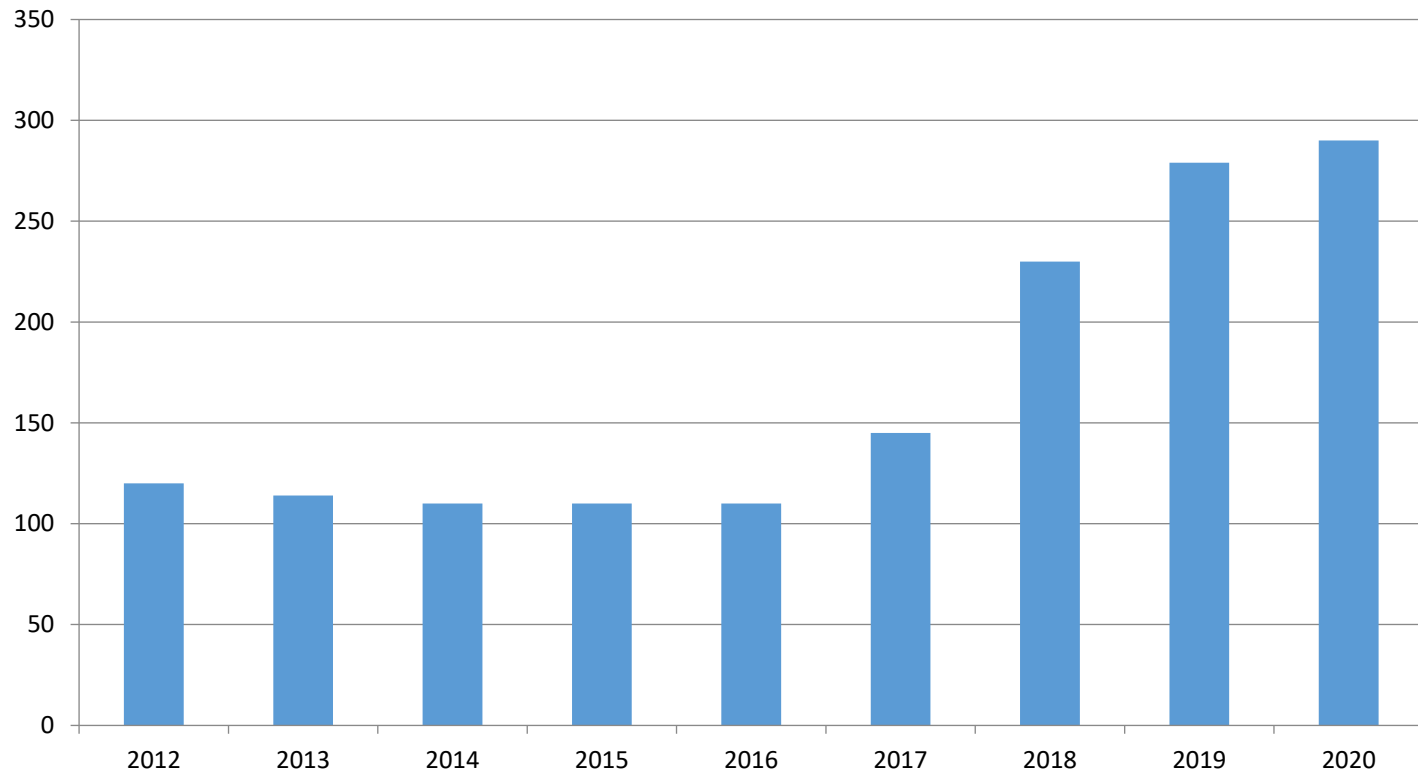**National Center for**
HEALTHY HOUSING

Why do we advocate for these specific programs?

How Does the Funding Work?

- Typical timeline:
  - Subcommittees taking requests in March/April
  - Subcommittees and committees marking bills in June/July
  - Continuing resolutions in the fall
  - Omnibus bill passage in late fall/winter
  - **Due to COVID-19, the timeline may be delayed this year**
- Important subcommittees:
  - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
  - Labor, Housing and Human Services, Education
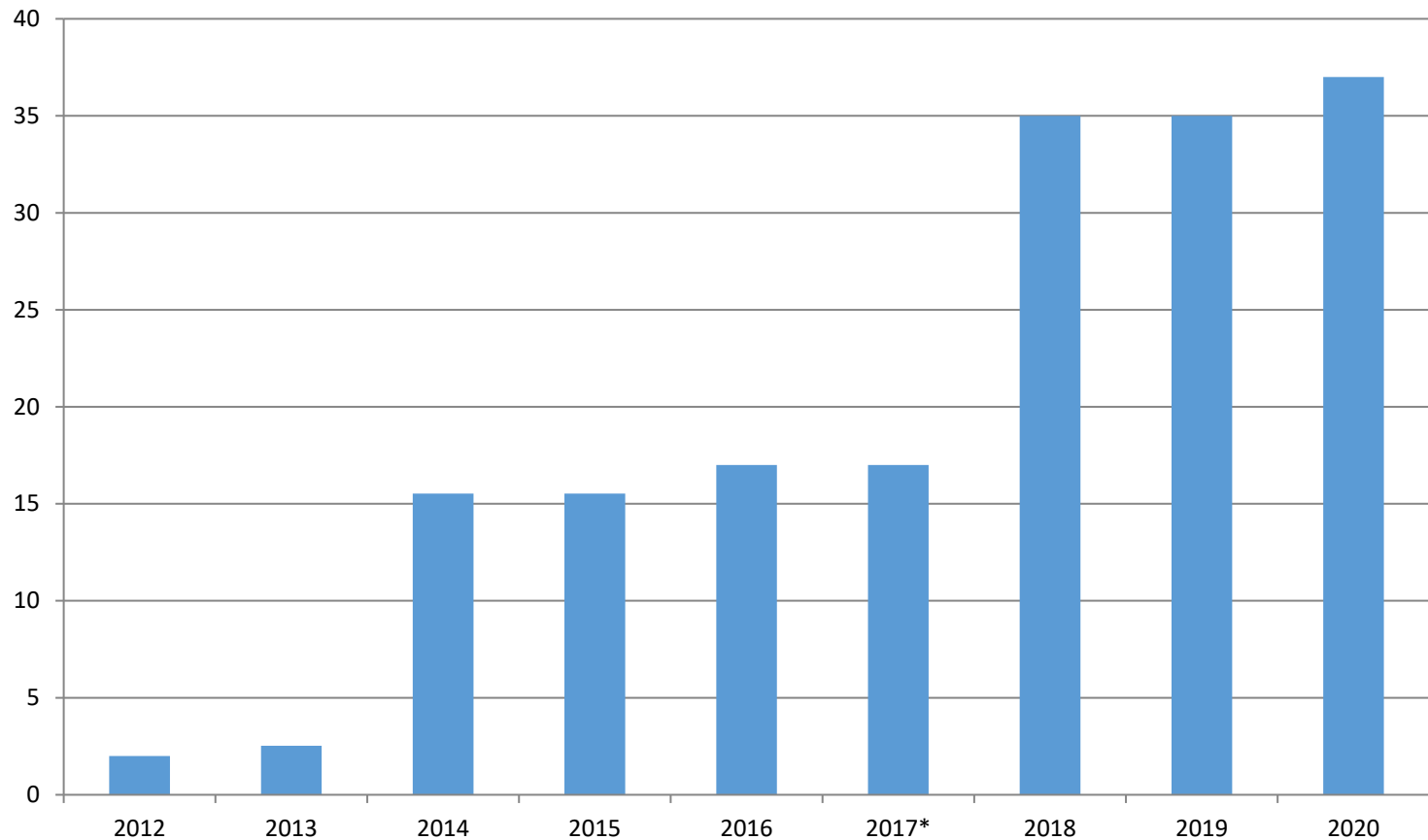 - Interior, Environment

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

Recent Funding Victories: HUD

HUD Lead Poisoning Prevention Investments by Fiscal Year ($ Millions)

Recent Funding Victories: CDC

CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention Investments by Fiscal Year ($ Millions)

*Does not include $35 million additional one-time funding authorized by the WIIN

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

Ways to Take Action

1. Join the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition: nshhcoalition.org.

2. Find out more about healthy homes issues in your state: bit.ly/StatePro.

3. Connect with others in your community.

4. Meet with your member of Congress to talk about how healthy homes issues impact you, your family, or the place where you live.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

Why Meet with Your Member of Congress?

- All members of Congress have offices both in DC and in their home districts.

- Meetings are usually with staff; the member of Congress may drop in.

- Short time commitment: Most meetings are about 15 minutes; they don't usually go over 30 minutes.

- Staffer may oversee many other topics in addition to healthy housing – it's up to you to educate them on how this is an issue in your district.

- They are looking to learn from you. If you build a strong relationship, they may start to look to you when they have more questions about the issue.

- Speaking to offices does NOT constitute lobbying if you do not discuss specific legislation – there are ways to talk about healthy housing issues, your work, and important federal programs without discussing specific legislation or funding numbers.

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

A Typical Meeting Structure

How much time do we have?

Introductions and Thank Yous

Ask
Say upfront what you want your member of Congress to do.

Tell Your Story

Reinforce with Talking Points
Tie your story to the importance of healthy homes funding.

Repeat Your Ask

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

How to Tell Your Story

1. This is how health hazards in the home have impacted your family, community, or state:

> *"In 2015, 2,121 of the children tested in North Carolina had an elevated blood lead level; children in NC with public health insurance have double the rate (15.5%) of current asthma than children with private insurance...."*

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

How to Tell Your Story

2. This is what healthy homes programs have done for your family or your community:

"Lead dust was removed from my home when my two children were small…."

"We've had a HUD grant since 2012…."

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

How to Tell Your Story

3. This is why continued funding of surveillance, education, and remediation is important for your family and community:

> *"This is the unaddressed need…."*

> *"I don't want other children to suffer as Jason has…."*

Preparing for Meetings

- **NCHH is happy to schedule a meeting with you if you are interested.**
- Review talking points about the need in your community and/or why federal programs matter.
- Resources:
    - State fact sheets: bit.ly/StatePro
    - Agency fact sheets: bit.ly/AgencyFactSheets
    - Frequently asked questions: nchh.org/build-the-movement/five-things/meet-your-member-of-congress-locally/
- Let us know if you'd like to review your information over the phone beforehand!

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

Further Resources

- Federal, state, and local policy recommendations to prevent lead poisoning: https://nchh.org/information-and-evidence/healthy-housing-policy/10-policies/

- NLC's *City-Level Models to Advance Healthy Housing*: https://nchh.org/resource-library/nlc_city-level-models-to-advance-healthy-housing.pdf

- Learn about local housing codes: https://nchh.org/tools-and-data/housing-code-tools/

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

Questions?

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING

National Center for
HEALTHY HOUSING