



National Safe and Healthy
Housing Coalition

FY 2015 Transportation HUD Appropriations
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC)

Hazards in the home continue to pose a serious risk to America’s most vulnerable children. Congress can protect millions of children nationwide from preventable disease and injury by fully funding HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control in FY15, and increasing the funding allocation for healthy homes programs.

HUD OHHLHC Programs:	Enacted					Request
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
Lead Hazard Control and Demonstration Programs	\$114,600	\$94,110	\$107,500	\$101,000	\$91,000	\$93,000
Healthy Homes Demonstration and Production Programs	\$20,000	\$23,253	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Lead Technical Studies	\$4,000	\$1,199	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
Transformation Initiative	\$1,400	\$1,198	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$140,000	\$119,800	\$120,000	\$114,000	\$110,000	\$120,000

Dollars in thousands

Recommendation: Provide \$120 million for the HUD’s Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control programs, including \$25 million for healthy homes. Continuing these vital programs while increasing the investment in healthy homes will support more communities seeking to protect children at highest risk of asthma, injury, and lead poisoning from housing-related hazards in their homes.

Background: The home is the most dangerous place for U.S. families, according to CDC injury and illness data. Lead-based paint hazards in 24 million homes jeopardize the development and school success of millions of children. High levels of allergens (e.g., dust mites, cockroaches, rodents) make 17 million homes hazardous for persons with asthma or other respiratory disease. More than 6.4 million homes have dangerous levels of radon – a gas that causes 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year. Some 6.2 million families in the U.S. live in severely inadequate housing according to HUD’s American Housing Survey. Exposure to dampness and mold contributes to 21 million asthma cases, at the price of \$3.5 billion in health care, 10 million lost school days, and two million emergency room visits. Improving housing quality can reduce health disparities and dramatically reduce health care costs.

Justification: Continuing investment in the competitive lead hazard control programs will position jurisdictions with highest risk of lead poisoning to render 9,300 homes lead-safe. Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control and Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration programs enable communities with pre-1940 rental housing and childhood lead poisoning cases to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible housing. Since their inception, **the programs have created over 200,000 lead-safe housing units.** These funds are vitally important for helping cities and states end childhood lead poisoning. **Each dollar invested in lead hazard control returns at least \$17 and as much as \$221.**

The Healthy Homes Initiative is an efficient use of federal housing dollars by ensuring that grantees remediate other serious hazards in the homes of their clients when they are addressing lead. These hazards include asthma triggers, radon, pesticides, and injuries. For an average of \$4,000 per unit, these healthy homes investments avert medical costs and help to sustain critical affordable housing by redressing deferred maintenance. The Healthy Homes Production Program goes beyond addressing lead-based paint hazards to correct multiple serious threats to residents’ health and safety, and **enables communities to make smart investments in housing – \$4,000 per unit on average – that will avert higher medical bills, higher energy costs, and higher housing maintenance costs.** Healthy Homes Technical Studies and Demonstration Programs support applied research to identify the housing interventions that produce demonstrable improvements in health and that help to eliminate costs in other sectors such health care costs, special education costs, and costs to the juvenile justice system. These research and demonstration projects also identify practical opportunities to incorporate health considerations into affordable housing and energy efficiency programs.