Unhealthy conditions found in hazardous housing can lead to lead poisoning, asthma, respiratory illness, cancer, and unintentional injuries, resulting in missed school days and poor school performance for children, as well as missed work days for parents. To protect the health of families in Puerto Rico and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services:

- **CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
- **CDC’s National Asthma Control Program**
- **CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network**
- **HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**
- **HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**
- **HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program**
- **EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants**
- **EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund**
- **HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants**
- **HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- **DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program**

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of Puerto Rico, including:

- **In Puerto Rico, 31% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 58% of children live in poverty.**

- **54% of Puerto Rico housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.**

- **Over 117,400 children and 298,000 adults in Puerto Rico have current asthma, about 14% and 11% of the population for each age group, respectively (2014).**

- **Unintentional falls were responsible for 152 deaths in Puerto Rico in 2014; 107 of these deaths were among adults over the age of 65.**

- **Puerto Rico does not require blood lead data reporting. Blood lead prevalence (5 µg/dL) for children under six is estimated at over 3%.**

- **About 40% of Puerto Ricans with asthma visited an emergency department due to asthma in the previous year (2010).**

- **97.2% of the population in Puerto Rico is served by water systems that violate EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule.**

- **Northwestern and southeastern portions of Puerto Rico are considered to have a moderate risk of indoor radon.**

For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues...

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