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 workdays for parents. The requirement for safe and healthy housing has become even more urgent as people spend more time than ever in residential environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the health of Arkansas families and prevent continued increases in associated healthcare costs and societal consequences, full federal funding is needed for critical programs and services.

Full funding to federal programs such as those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of Arkansas. For example:

- In Arkansas, 26% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 25% of children live in poverty.
- Unintentional falls were responsible for 211 deaths among Arkansans above the age of 65 in 2018.
- 42% of Arkansas housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Arkansas has no state statutes regarding carbon monoxide detectors or radon.
- Approximately 10% of adults have current asthma in Arkansas; 15% have been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime (2018).
- Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization for children between 1 and 17 in Arkansas (2014).
- 15% of Arkansan households face severe housing problems, such as overcrowding or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities.

February 2021. For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues...

contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org