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 District of Columbia 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 the District of Columbia. For example:

- CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: YES
- CDC’s National Asthma Control Program: NO
- CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network: NO
- HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes: YES
- HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): YES
- HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program: YES
- EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants: YES
- EPA’s State Indoor Radon Grants: YES
- EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund: YES
- HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants: YES
- HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): YES
- DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program: YES

In the District of Columbia, 37% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 23% of children live in poverty.

77% of District of Columbia housing was built prior 1978 (34% before 1940) and is likely to contain lead-based paint. Due to the age of the housing stock, the District requires a 100% screening rate for children at ages 1 and 2.

Approximately 12% of adults and 11% of children have current asthma in the District of Columbia (2018).

In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for 48 deaths among Washingtonians over the age of 65.

In 2017, 128 District of Columbia children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 35 of them were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 61% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2010, wards 1, 4, and 5 accounted for 65% of elevated blood lead levels identified in District of Columbia children under 6 years of age.

Emergency department visit rates for asthma in the District of Columbia are 23 times higher in wards 7 and 8 than Ward 3, and 20 times higher for black residents than white residents (2010-2014).

Over 21% of District of Columbia households have severe housing problems, including 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... visit: [http://bit.ly/StatePro](http://bit.ly/StatePro) contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org