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 the District of Columbia 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 State Indoor Radon 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 the District of Columbia, including:

- In the District of Columbia, **39% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and **26% of children live in poverty**.
- **80% of District of Columbia housing was built prior 1978** (36% 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 9% of adults and 11% of children have current asthma** in the District of Columbia (2015).
- In 2017, **128 District of Columbia children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 35 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more**.
- **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**.
- **Children ages 0-17 experience the highest rates of emergency department visits with asthma** as the primary, secondary, or tertiary diagnosis **in wards 7 and 8** (2015).
- **21% of District of Columbia households have severe housing problems**, including overcrowding or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities.

**National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING**

October 2019. 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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