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 Delaware 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 Delaware. 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 Delaware, 33% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 19% of children live in poverty.

In 2016, 104 Delaware children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 19 of them were 10 μg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 76% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Delaware, 46% of housing in Delaware was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.

Approximately 10% of adults (2018) and 12% of children (2012) have current asthma in Delaware.

The total cost of asthma in Delaware, including medical costs and loss of productivity, is estimated at over $200 million per year.

In 2015, there were 1,453 emergency department visits and 401 hospitalizations due to asthma among Delaware children enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP.

In Delaware, the areas with the highest percentages of radon over the EPA action level are Middletown (27%) and Odessa (22%); both are in New Castle County.

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

In Delaware, the total cost of asthma in Delaware, including medical costs and loss of productivity, is estimated at over $200 million per year.