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 Iowa's families 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 residents and families of Iowa, including:

- In Iowa, 19% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 12% of children live in poverty.
- 66% of Iowa housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; over 25% was built before 1940.
- Approximately 9% of adults (2017) and 6% of children (2010) in Iowa have current asthma.
- Iowa leads the nation in the percentage of homes over the EPA action level for radon (71.6%) as well as the percentage of homes over 20 pCi/L.

In 2017, 890 Iowa children tested had a confirmed elevated blood lead level (5 µg/dL or more); 349 of them had blood lead levels of 10 µg/dL or more.

In 2017, unintentional falls were responsible for 461 deaths among Iowans over the age of 65.

There were 314 emergency department visits (2018), 17 hospitalizations (2018), and 31 deaths (2017) due to unintentional, nonfire-related carbon monoxide exposure in Iowa.

Iowa is designated by the EPA as an entirely zone 1 state for radon, which means that at least 50% of the homes are above EPA's recommended action level.

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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