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 Iowa 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 Iowa. For example:

- In Iowa, 19% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.
- 65% of Iowa housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; over 24% was built before 1940.
- Approximately 8% of adults have current asthma in Iowa (2018).
- 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 2019, 981 Iowa children tested had a confirmed elevated blood lead level (5 µg/dL or more); 373 of them were 10 µg/dL or higher. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 47% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for 468 deaths among Iowans over the age of 65.
- There were 287 emergency department visits (2019), 17 hospitalizations (2018), and 7 deaths (2019) 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.