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 Indiana’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 Indiana, including:

- In Indiana, 23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 18% of children live in poverty.
- In 2017, 821 Indiana children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 260 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- On average, 24 Hoosiers die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016).
- 58% of Indiana housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 17% was built before 1940.
- Approximately 10% of adults and 7% of children have current asthma in Indiana (2017).
- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency department visits, hospitalization, and death for Hoosiers aged 65 and older. In 2017, 431 older adults died from fall-related injury.
- In 2017, there were 27,191 emergency department visits and 2,597 hospitalizations due to asthma in Indiana.
- Between 2007-2014, over 32% of Indiana homes tested for radon had indoor air results above the EPA 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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