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 Kentucky 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 Kentucky. For example:

- In Kentucky, **25% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 23% of children live in poverty.
- **50% of Kentucky housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Approximately **11.5% of adults** and **6% of children have current asthma** in Kentucky (2018).
- In 2018, **unintentional falls resulted in 312 deaths among Kentuckians over the age of 65**.
- In 2016, **80 Kentucky children tested had an elevated blood lead level** (5 μg/dL or more); 23 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or higher. Only 3.2% of the population under 72 months old was tested.
- **19,678 emergency department visits and 5,111 hospitalizations due to asthma** resulted in a total billed charges over $192 million in Kentucky in 2014.
- **30 counties** in Kentucky have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.

February 2021. 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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