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 Missouri 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 Missouri. For example:

- In Missouri, 23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 18% of children live in poverty.
- 55% of Missouri housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 28% was built before 1960.
- Over 9% of adults and 8% of children have current asthma in Missouri (2018).
- In 2018, unintentional falls were responsible for 695 deaths among Missourians over the age of 65.
- In 2017, 1,619 Missouri children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 444 of them were 10 μg/dL or more. Average blood lead testing activity fell by 67% in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Asthma was responsible for over 30,000 emergency department visits in Missouri in 2014; hospitalization charges for these visits totaled over $114 million.

In 2020, Missouri received funding since 2018 for:

- 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

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