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 New Jersey 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 families and residents of New Jersey, including:

- In New Jersey, 37% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.
- Over 67% of New Jersey housing was built before 1978 (18% before 1940) and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Radon is associated with between 140 and 250 lung cancer deaths in New Jersey each year. Less than 33% of New Jersey homes have been tested for radon as of 2017.
- In 2017, 427 New Jerseyans over 65 died in New Jersey, and in 2015 approximately 17,000 were hospitalized as a result of unintentional falls.
- In 2017, 3,783 New Jersey children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 914 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- In 2017, 13% of children with a positive blood lead test in New Jersey lived in Newark, despite the fact that less than 4% of the state’s children under age six resided in the city.
- Approximately 7% of adults and 8% of children have current asthma in New Jersey (2017).
- In 2017, carbon monoxide poisoning was responsible for 525 emergency department visits in New Jersey.

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... visit: http://bit.ly/StatePro contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org