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 New Jersey 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 New Jersey. For example:

- **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 those listed above will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the residents and families of New Jersey. For example:

- In New Jersey, 36% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 14% of children live in poverty.
- In 2017, 5,611 New Jersey children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 1,828 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- In 2017, 13% of children under age six 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 6 resided in the city.
- Approximately 8% of adults and 7% of children have current asthma in New Jersey (2018).
- In 2017, carbon monoxide poisoning was responsible for 525 emergency department visits in New Jersey.

National Center for Healthy Housing

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... visit: [http://bit.ly/StatePro](http://bit.ly/StatePro) contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org