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 Mexico’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 families and residents of New Mexico, including:

- In New Mexico, 28% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 27% of children live in poverty.
- In 2017, 71 New Mexico children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 9 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- On average, 8 New Mexicans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016). In 2016, CO exposure was responsible for 153 emergency department visits.
- Approximately 11% of adults and 9% of children have current asthma in New Mexico (2017).
- In 2016, there were over 7,000 emergency department visits due to asthma in New Mexico.
- In 2017, unintentional falls were responsible for 313 deaths among New Mexicans over the age of 65.
- 7 counties in northern New Mexico have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

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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