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 Oregon’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 Oregon, including:

- In Oregon, 32% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 16% of children live in poverty.
- 54% of Oregon housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 12% was built before 1940.
- Over 47,700 children and 353,000 adults in Oregon have current asthma, about 6% and 11% of the population for each age group, respectively (2017).
- In 2017, there were 1,190 hospitalizations due to asthma in Oregon, totaling $28 million in direct charges.
- In 2017, 147 Oregon children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 32 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- On average, 15 Oregonians die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016).
- In 2017, unintentional falls were responsible for 688 deaths among Oregonians over the age of 65.
- 28 ZIP codes in Oregon are considered high-risk for indoor radon, with as many as 62.5% of homes testing above the EPA action level. There are approximately 276 radon-related lung cancer deaths in Oregon each year.

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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