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 Pennsylvania’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 Pennsylvania, including:

- In Pennsylvania, 27% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 17% of children live in poverty.
- 70% of Pennsylvania housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint; 25% was built before 1940.
- In 2013, Pennsylvania reports over 18,000 inpatient hospitalizations due to asthma, costing the state over $496 million. In 2015, only 34% of adults with asthma were advised to reduce exposures to irritants at home, school, or work.
- Unintentional falls were responsible for 1,568 deaths among Pennsylvanians over the age of 65 in 2017.
- In 2017, 6,854 Pennsylvania children tested had an elevated blood lead level (5 μg/dL or more); 1,791 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more.
- On average, 66 Pennsylvanians die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016), the highest average for any state during this period.
- Approximately 10% of adults and 9% of children have current asthma in Pennsylvania (2015).
- 40% of Pennsylvania homes tested for radon have results above the EPA action level. In 49 Pennsylvania counties, average indoor air radon levels are predicted to be greater than 4 pCi/L.

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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