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 South Carolina 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 South Carolina. For example:

- **CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**: YES
- **CDC’s National Asthma Control Program**: NO
- **CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network**: NO
- **HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**: YES
- **HUD’s Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**: YES
- **HUD’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program**: YES
- **EPA’s Lead Categorical Grants**: NO
- **EPA’s State Indoor Radon Grants**: YES
- **EPA’s Drinking Water Revolving Fund**: YES
- **HHS’ Maternal and Child Health Block Grants**: YES
- **HHS’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**: YES
- **DOE’s Weatherization Assistance Program**: YES

In South Carolina, 27% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 23% of children live in poverty. In 2014, approximately 3% of blood lead tests in South Carolina returned elevated blood lead levels (5 μg/dL or more).

- **37% of South Carolina housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- **Over 360,000 adults** (2018) and over 102,000 children (2013) **have current asthma** in South Carolina.
- **On average, 45 South Carolinians die annually from carbon monoxide exposure** (2014-2018).
- **In 2017, there were over 21,000 emergency department visits and almost 2,500 hospitalizations due to asthma** in South Carolina.
- **Through 2015, indoor radon test results for two South Carolina counties** (Oconee and Greenville) showed averages above the EPA action level.

In 2018, **unintentional falls were responsible for 515 deaths** among South Carolinians over the age of 65.

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...

contact: [sgoodwin@nchh.org](mailto:sgoodwin@nchh.org)