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 Tennessee 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 Tennessee. For example:

- **In Tennessee, 29% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden**, and 22% of children live in poverty.
- **44% of Tennessee housing was built before 1978** and is likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Unintentional falls were responsible for **661 deaths among Tennesseans above the age of 65** in 2018.
- **33 counties** in eastern and central Tennessee have average indoor air screening levels above the EPA action level for radon.
- In 2017, **349 Tennessee children tested had an elevated blood lead level** (5 μg/dL or more); **99 of them had blood lead levels of 10 μg/dL or more**. Average blood lead testing activity **fell by 35% in the spring of 2020** due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approximately **10% of adults** (2018) and **10% of children** (2014) have current asthma in Tennessee.
- There were **49.3 emergency department visits due to asthma for every 10,000 people** in Tennessee in 2016; Hardeman and Shelby counties had rates over 80.

TN received funding since 2018?

- 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: YES
- 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

National Center for Healthy Housing

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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...