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 Tennessee’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  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

Full funding to federal programs such as these will help to address many of the risks and burdens facing the families and residents of Tennessee, including:

- In Tennessee, 27% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 21% of children live in poverty.
- 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.
- On average, 26 Tennesseans die annually from carbon monoxide exposure (2012-2016).
- Approximately 10% of adults (2017) 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.

In Tennessee,

45% of Tennessee housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint.

Unintentional falls were responsible for 626 deaths among Tennesseans above the age of 65 in 2017.

33 counties in eastern and central Tennessee have average indoor air screening levels above the EPA action level for radon.