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 Utah 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 Utah. For example:

- In Utah, 23% of children live in households with a high housing cost burden, and 10% of children live in poverty.
- 40% of Utah housing was built before 1978 and is likely to contain lead-based paint. In several central Utah counties, more than 20% was built before 1950.
- Over 49,000 children and 200,000 adults in Utah have current asthma, about 6% and 9% of the population for each age group, respectively (2018).
- 7 counties in eastern and central Utah have predicted average indoor radon levels above the EPA action level. Statewide, over 37% of radon test results returned were above the action level (2019).
- In 2018, 137 Utah children tested with blood lead levels at or above 5 µg/dL.
- Over 20% of Utah households lack carbon monoxide detectors. In 2018, there were 284 unintentional carbon monoxide exposures reported to the Utah Poison Control Center.
- There were over 7,500 emergency department visits and 1,500 hospitalizations due to asthma in Utah in 2014, with total costs of $28 million and $20.1 million, respectively.
- Every week, unintentional falls among Utahns over the age of 65 result in 200 emergency department visits, 63 hospitalizations, and 3 deaths.

For references, additional state-specific healthy homes information, and to learn how you can engage your members of Congress on these vital issues... visit: [http://bit.ly/StatePro](http://bit.ly/StatePro) contact: sgoodwin@nchh.org