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 Virgin Islands 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 the Virgin Islands. For example:

**CDC’s Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
- NO

**CDC’s National Asthma Control Program**
- NO

**CDC’s Environmental Health Tracking Network**
- NO

**HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes**
- NO

**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**
- NO

**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

**1978**
- Approximately **50%** of housing units were built before 1978 and are likely to contain lead-based paint (2010).

**$**
- Approximately **48%** of Virgin Island renters spend over **30%** of their income on rent (2010).

**CO**
- Approximately **1,600 falls** occurred in the Virgin Islands in 2017.

**5,011 people** from the Virgin Islands have **asthma**, approximately **5%** of the population.

**The Virgin Islands have no mandatory testing for blood-lead levels in place and don’t collect data on lead-based paint in private residences.**

**About 6%** of housing in the Virgin Islands lacks complete plumbing facilities, and about **7%** lacks complete kitchen facilities (2010).

**52%** of all housing in the Virgin Islands was damaged by hurricanes Irma and Maria; more than **50%** of Virgin Islands residents reported the presence of mold in their homes following the hurricanes.

**10 people** in the Virgin Islands are poisoned by carbon monoxide annually.

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...

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