



## National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

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The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Chair  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

May 6, 2022

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

On behalf of the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, we would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the support lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes received in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill. In particular, we applaud the increased funding for the radon program and the lead categorical grant program. We would also like to acknowledge the president's budget request and its support for these programs at EPA, which is a step in the right direction toward the needed funding for these programs.

The devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have further demonstrated the connection between housing quality and health outcomes, how these impacts disproportionately affect specific populations including communities of color and low-income communities, and the necessity of investing in addressing healthy housing hazards and poor housing quality. As the country continues to invest in COVID-19 recovery, significant funding is still needed to increase housing affordability and stability, fix substandard housing, and provide innovative, flexible, and equitable services to those impacted by healthy housing hazards. As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 funding bill, we urge you to continue to support the vital work of these programs and increase funding to a total of \$119.5 million. This includes \$67 million for EPA's Categorical Grants for lead and radon, \$16 million for the Lead Risk Reduction Program, \$5 million for the Indoor Air Radon Program, \$23.5 million for the Reduce Risk from Indoor Air Program, and \$8 million for the Children and Other Sensitive Populations program.

EPA's Categorical Grant: Lead and Lead Risk Reduction programs are key to the nation's childhood lead poisoning prevention efforts. Through funding for states and EPA regional offices, these programs support science-based standards used to define what lead hazards are in order to protect pregnant women and children; they require lead-safe work practices during renovation, repair, and painting work; and they ensure that consumers seeking lead inspection, abatement, and risk assessment services can find qualified, trained individuals to perform the work properly. Communities require more resources to address the needs of lead-poisoned children, especially a fully trained workforce to carry out lead abatement and lead-safe work practices. We urge Congress to increase funding of these programs to \$50 million and \$16 million, respectively.

EPA's Categorical Grant: Radon, Indoor Air: Radon, and Reduce Risk from Indoor Air programs work to protect residents from health risks associated with indoor air, including asthma triggers located in the home, mold (a particular concern in the aftermath of flooding), and radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. As awareness of radon as a public health issue has increased, the demand for radon mitigation services is also expected to increase. We urge Congress to increase the funding of these programs at \$17 million, \$5 million, and \$23.5 million, respectively

EPA's Children and Other Sensitive Populations: Agency coordination ensures that agency programs protect children's environmental health, including work on developing regulations, improving science policy, implementing programs at the community level, and measuring progress on children's health. The incidence of asthma and a number of other chronic diseases is increasing nationwide. Therefore, more resources are needed to address the needs of these sensitive populations. We urge Congress to increase funding of this program to \$8 million.

EPA's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program provides funding to over 1,500 community-based organizations, tribal governments, and Native American organizations to support and empower communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues. The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition applauds FY22 funding of \$94 million as it represents a good step forward in supporting healthy housing and environmental justice priorities. We support President Biden's proposed budget of \$294.9 million for this program in FY23 and encourage Congress to adopt that proposed increase and support the five proposed and existing grant programs—the Environmental Justice Competitive Grant Program, the Environmental Justice Community Grants Program, the Environmental Justice State Grant Program, the Tribal Environmental Justice Grant Program, and the Participatory Research Grant Program.

The National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition is a broad coalition of over 400 organizations working to improve housing conditions nationwide. The coalition promotes policies for safe and healthy housing in the United States, with special emphasis on those who are disproportionately impacted. These vital programs must be funded in order to support healthy housing for all.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for your continued support of lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes. The nation's children will benefit enormously from your leadership.

Please contact Sarah Goodwin at [sarah@nshhcoalition.org](mailto:sarah@nshhcoalition.org) if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Gillian Mittelstaedt  
Co-Chair  
National Safe and Healthy Housing  
Coalition  
Issaquah, WA

Amanda Reddy  
Co-Chair  
National Safe and Healthy Housing  
Coalition  
Columbia, MD

## **Organizational Signatures**

### **National Organizations**

Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Clean Water Action  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center  
Elevate  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
Lead and Environmental Hazards Association  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

### **Regional, State, and Local Organizations**

Alameda County Healthy Homes Department  
California Safe Schools  
Children First  
EnviroPlan, LLC  
Healthy Housing Omaha  
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut  
Learning Disabilities Association of Delaware  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois  
Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana  
Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

Learning Disabilities Association of New York State  
Learning Disabilities Association of Ohio  
Learning Disabilities Association of South Carolina  
Learning Disabilities Association of Texas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Utah  
Learning Disabilities Association of Virginia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan  
Lincoln Westmoreland Housing, Inc.  
Metropolitan Tenants Organization  
Ohio Lead-Free Kids Coalition  
Partnership for Air Matters  
Rebuilding Together Sacramento  
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention  
Revitalize Community Development Corporation  
Sullivan County, NH, Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Program  
Women for a Healthy Environment

**Individual Signatures – Organization May Be Listed for Identification Purposes Only**

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Atlanta, GA

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Hamden, CT

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Ohio Lead-Free Kids Coalition  
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St. Paul, MN

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