

# SMOKE-FREE POLICY

## Information for Residents



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

### HUD FACT SHEET

## This Is a Smoke-Free Building!

### Why did we go smoke-free?

Secondhand smoke contributes to disease and early death. A known cause of lung cancer, secondhand smoke is also linked with heart disease and breathing problems in nonsmoking adults. The health effects of secondhand smoke are especially serious for children, older adults, and people with lung problems.

HUD requires all public housing to be smoke-free (with the exception of mixed-finance properties).

A smoke-free building is one where smoking is not allowed anywhere inside of the building. In addition, no one may smoke within 25 feet of any building on public housing grounds.

**Protect residents and employees from secondhand smoke.** Eliminating smoking indoors and close to the building is the only way to fully protect people from secondhand smoke.

**Encourage healthy behaviors in residents and employees.** In addition to protecting residents and employees from secondhand smoke, smoke-free policies create healthy environments that encourage people who smoke to quit or attempt to reduce smoking.

We are happy to offer a safer, healthier building for everyone!

### Who benefits?

Smoke-free housing is good for everyone's health.

Children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to get sick, cough, and even have poorer performance at school.

Infants need extra protection—breathing secondhand smoke has been linked to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Adults need protection, too—secondhand smoke causes heart disease, cancer, and lung diseases.



### A smoke-free home is a healthy and safe home.

When you sign your next lease renewal, it will include the smoke-free policy.

Our homes—the place where we spend a lot of our time—can make a big difference in our health. Keeping your home smoke-free is one of the best ways to create a healthy home for yourself, your family, and your friends.

When a home is smoke-free, it lowers the chance of accidental fire and deaths from fire. The risk of burns is also lower.

Smoke-free homes are easier to maintain and keep clean than those where people smoke.

#### It's not enough to:

- Move to another room.
- Turn on a fan.
- Open a window.
- Blow smoke away.
- Use air fresheners or candles.



## Smoke-free policies are legal.

The smoke-free policy will still allow people who smoke to rent a unit.

People who smoke tobacco are not considered a protected class under the Fair Housing Act and do not have special legal status.

Reasonable accommodations under the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be available. Talk to the public housing agency (PHA) staff if you have concerns related to a qualified disability.

## What You Can Do

Come to the meetings about the smoke-free policy to learn more and share your thoughts.

You do not have to quit smoking to continue living here. We thank you for complying with the policy and smoking in the designated smoking areas.

Remind your neighbors, visitors, and others living with you to follow the rules; there may be a specific smoking area outside, or they may have to leave the property. Signs will help remind everyone.

Submit concerns or complaints about policy violations to the PHA staff.

## Resources to Help You Quit Smoking

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) toll-free to talk to a trained coach who can help you quit, or go to [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov) to learn more.

- ✔ Contact your doctor or health clinic.
- ✔ Gum, patches, and other products can help you reduce your smoking habit or quit altogether.
- ✔ Join together with others in your home or building to support each other in quitting smoking.
- ✔ Ask your property manager or other PHA staff about local resources.

You do not have to quit smoking to live here.

We thank you for following our policy and not smoking inside.

We can have a healthier, smoke-free building with your help.