

HIGHLIGHTS: Smoke-free Public Housing Final Rule

On November 30, 2016, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro announced that public housing developments in the U.S. will be required to provide a smoke-free environment for their residents. The final rule includes input from more than 1,000 comments received from the public, including Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), housing and public health organizations, and tenants.

The final rule will:

- Require more than 3,100 public housing agencies to implement smokefree policies within 18 months of the final rule being adopted.
- Prohibit the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and hookah (waterpipes) in all living units, indoor common areas and administrative offices.
- Prohibit the use of tobacco products covered by the policy in outdoor areas within 25 ft. from buildings.
- Allow for further restrictions (e.g., buffer around playgrounds, restrict smoking to designated outdoor areas, property-wide smoke-free policy).
- Apply to all housing types, including single family units.
- Require PHAs to document their smoke-free policies in their PHA plans, a process that requires resident engagement and public meetings.
- Help improve the health of more than 2 million public housing residents, including 760,000 children.
- Save an estimated \$153 million every year in costs from secondhand smoke attributable healthcare, repairs of smoke-permitted units and smoking attributable fires.
- Impact the more than 940,000 units that are currently not smoke-free, including more than 500,000 units inhabited by elderly individuals.

The final rule does not cover:

- Housing units in mixed finance developments.
- Privately owned, federally subsidized multifamily housing (e.g. project-based Section 8 housing).
- Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) is committed to assisting HUD in rolling out and implementing this landmark policy through: scientific support; connecting HUD to State Tobacco Control Programs; helping to facilitate cessation, communication, and evaluation support; and coordinating activities with other Federal agencies and partners.

More specifically, CDC has worked closely with HUD in the following ways:

- **Scientific Support:** Informing decision-makers on the public health benefits of smoke-free multiunit housing policies
- **Coordination:** Connecting HUD to State Tobacco Control Programs and National Networks, as well as other federal agencies and national partners
- **Technical Assistance:** Supporting policy development, implementation, and maintenance
- **Cessation Support:** Connecting public residents to cessation services and support to help them quit tobacco use
- **Communication Support:** Helping HUD Explain the policy's scientific/health rationale to public housing residents and staff

We look forward to the months ahead as we continue to work closely with tobacco control colleagues, public health partners, and sister federal agencies to make this landmark public health policy a successful reality.