



“New Opportunities: Smokefree Multi-Unit Housing and Tobacco Cessation” Frequently Asked Questions

Are e-cigarettes included in the smokefree policy?

E-cigarettes can be included in the smokefree policy but they were not included in the final rule issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is the minimum a public housing authority (PHA) must do. The American Lung Association and others urge including e-cigarettes in the policy, as it can make enforcement easier and also protect people from secondhand e-cigarette emissions.

Do you anticipate resistance at the start of the smokefree policy? After all this policy is trying to change behavior.

It is important to engage residents early in the process of implementing the smokefree policy and to start promoting the new policy as early as possible. The policy does not require anyone to quit smoking—they may no longer smoke indoors. Instead, the policy’s aim is to protect everyone from the proven dangers of secondhand smoke. There may be residents who want to quit smoking as a result of the policy. Offering those residents resource to aid in their quit-attempt can help the implementation succeed.

I've had some PHAs pushing the policy planning down the road. When is the latest that they should start planning and implementing to successfully implement by July 2018?

PHAs should start planning for the new smokefree policy as soon as possible. If a PHA has not yet started to plan and implement the new policy, they should start now. There are many resources available to them, including resources available at lung.org/smokefreehousing.

Where can I find resources to help local public housing authorities (PHAs) implement smokefree policies?

There are many resources available to local PHAs to help implement the new smokefree policy. In the [Lung Association toolkit](#), you can find resources including cessation coverage, model lease language and an animated video explaining the dangers of secondhand smoke. Additionally, there are many organizations that can support PHAs with funding for signs and other materials. PHAs can also reach out to local HUD staff that are specifically working on implementing the smokefree policy. You can find that list [here](#).