

HEALTH AND PUBLIC HOUSING



**NATIONAL
NURSE-LED CARE
CONSORTIUM**
a PHMC affiliate

Supporting Smoke-Free Public Housing in Health Centers

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released a [final rule](#) requiring local public housing agencies (PHAs) to adopt smoke-free policies for federally-owned housing by July 2018. Smoke-free housing aligns with HUD's mission to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing for the most vulnerable populations across the country. PHAs are responsible for enforcement and compliance with the rule, and may expand on the rule's requirements.

What areas must be smoke-free?

All indoor living areas – including individual units, common areas, and administrative offices – and all outdoor areas within 25 feet of included indoor areas.

What products are banned?

Any product that is burned by tobacco, which includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and water pipes known as “hookahs.” The policy does not currently apply to “e-cigarettes,” or electronic nicotine delivery systems.

How are health centers involved?

Health centers are a major source of primary health care for many residents of public housing, especially Public Housing Primary Care (PHPC) health centers. Over 30% of all patients seen at FQHCs across the country are served at health centers that are in or accessible to public housing.

The median number of patients seen at PHPCs were 50% more likely to have a tobacco use disorder than the median number of patients seen at all other health centers.

Data provided by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) within the Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U. S. Department of Health and Humans Services (HHS).

Smoke-Free Policies in Public Housing

Next Step: Partner Up!

HUD is mobilizing public health and private partners including HRSA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Cancer Society (ACS) to support PHAs as they implement smoke-free policies. Health centers are strongly encouraged to coordinate with local PHAs to link residents of public housing with smoking cessation services and resources, and to identify other community partners. [Local health departments](#) can also offer clinical and community-based solutions to smoking cessation.

CDC Tips Campaign

Five years ago, the CDC launched its compelling [Tips From Former Smokers™](#) (or “Tips”) campaign. The campaign has had a major impact on 5 million smokers nationwide through its candid depictions of what life is like for smokers with serious long-term health effects, even years after they’ve quit. The campaign also highlights the voices of people who suffer consequences solely from secondhand smoke exposure.

American Cancer Society

ACS has created a wealth of resources for health centers to promote smoking cessation for their employees and their patients through the [Center for Tobacco Control](#). There are also over 100 ACS staff members around the country dedicated to working with health centers on quality improvement initiatives. To find out who works with Community Health Centers in your area, call ACS at 800-227-2345 or [find and call your local ACS office](#).

Resources

- [HUD’s “Smoke-free Public Housing and Multifamily Properties” website](#)
- [HUD’s “Smoke-free Housing” toolkit](#)
- Surgeon General’s [Report on Secondhand Smoke](#)

In addition to the organizations noted above, the following resources offer insight and guidance for health centers to implement smoking cessation programming and partner with PHAs.

To learn more about smoking cessation for residents of public housing and staff in health centers, please contact Kristine Gonnella, kgonnella@ncc.us.

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