



HUD Smoke-Free Rule at a Glance

About this strategy

HUD released a final rule requiring all public housing agencies to have a smoke-free policy in place and effective by August 2018 to protect residents and staff from secondhand smoke, reduce fire risk and maintenance costs, and provide cleaner and safer air for all residents.

SHIP grantees will work in coordination with TA providers and public housing authorities to assess their existing policies, determine implementation timeline and needs, and promote cessation resources.

What does the evidence say?

HUD's smoke-free rule will protect the health of residents and staff by reducing the risks associated with secondhand smoke. According to the 2006 Surgeon General's report, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. An estimated 41,000 of these tobacco-related deaths are the result of secondhand smoke exposure. Secondhand smoke causes heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer in adults and a number of additional health problems in infants and children, including asthma, respiratory infections, impaired lung function, ear infections and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Studies show that despite attempts to seal and ventilate individual units, air movement from one unit to another, or throughout an entire multi-unit building, can expose non-smoking residents to secondhand smoke. Studies evaluating Smoke-free Housing policies demonstrate substantial reductions in secondhand smoke exposure among residents after policy implementation.

For more information, refer to the [SHIP Smoke-Free Housing Guide](#).

Activities

Rule Implementation Support:

- Offer property managers policy technical assistance and support.
- Offer residents education about the policy, secondhand smoke, timeline and cessation resources.
- Promote and strengthen cessation linkages onsite.
- Assist property managers with addressing tenant concerns.

Cessation Support:

The HUD rule presents an opportunity for local public health to partner with local clinics and hospitals and prepare for residents seeking cessation resources from their doctor. To initiate this partnership, learn where residents interact with the health care systems and providers, find a local health care system/provider contact and propose ways health system or provider can strengthen their cessation services.

Priority populations

Multi-unit buildings can be home to many and house priority populations experiencing health inequities, such as seniors, youth and young adults, racial and ethnic minorities, and lower income individuals and families.

Requirements

Grantees will use model policy language provided by the Public Health Law Center. This rule prohibits lit tobacco products in all living units, indoor common areas, administrative offices and all outdoor areas within 25 feet of housing and administrative office buildings. Additionally, SHIP grantees will encourage more comprehensive protections including e-cigarettes, curb-to-curb coverage, and promote cessation resources onsite and with healthcare partners.

Important dates

Winter 2017	ALA and ANSR begin reaching out to SHIP grantees about next steps. SHIP grantees begin reaching out to their PHAs to offer support, assess needs and begin planning policy implementation or expansion.
Spring 2017	SHIP grantees begin conversations with local clinics about cessation services and referral. SHIP grantees continue planning and technical assistance support to managers.
Summer 2017	SHIP grantees work with property managers to engage residents and develop policy.
Fall 2017	SHIP grantees work with property managers to promote Great American Smoke Out activities and other cessation promotion activities onsite.
August 2018	Public housing complexes are required to have smoke-free housing policy activated.

At three, six, and 12 months post-policy implementation, check-in with property managers on compliance and enforcement issues and cessation promotion needs.

Resources

Local communities should work with their assigned technical assistance provider for further guidance and policy planning. Additional resources include:

- [SHIP Smoke-Free Housing Guide](#)
- [Minnesota Smoke-Free HUD Resources](#)
- [HUD Resources](#)
- [CDC Resources](#)

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