

THE

Benefits of No-Smoking Policies

IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING



HUD encourages public housing authorities and multifamily housing rental assistance programs to implement no-smoking policies in some or all of the units they own or manage.

-- HUD Notice PIH-2009-21 (HA)
-- HUD Notice H-2010-21

"The scientific evidence is now indisputable: secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance. It is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults."

— US Surgeon General, 2006



Industry leaders agree that no-smoking policies provide a cost-effective, safe and healthy environment for staff and residents.

Smoke free policies are legal and protective

"Neither smokers nor the act of smoking is included as a protected class under federal, state, or local Fair Housing laws." — The Fair Housing Council of New York

"Prohibiting smoking can protect against lawsuits by tenants with certain disabilities that are exacerbated by exposure to secondhand smoke." — The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium, April 2010

No-smoking policies ensure that safe and healthy housing is not a luxury.

■ Most renters want smokefree housing.

"As our survey showed that over 95% of our residents wanted a smoke-free building, we knew it would provide a safe environment for our residents and employees. The policy was quick and painless to adopt!" — Anthony Flala, Executive Director, SEPP Management Company, Binghamton, NY

"I went to a resident meeting prepared with facts, figures and statistics - ready for anything - except for the reaction we received. When we made the 'official' announcement that the property would be smoke free on January 1, the residents applauded. And that reaction was repeated at the next property and at the next property. We were giving the residents what they wanted." — Pamela F. Berger, Vice-President, Property Operations, Belmont Housing Resources for Western New York

■ No smoking policies prevent fires

"Smoking indoors puts people in needless danger. Cigarettes are the cause of many accidental fires, so not smoking indoors means fewer fires and more saved lives. There's no question about it- smoke-free housing is a good way to keep tenants safe." — Dan Eggleston, Fire Marshall, City of Binghamton

■ Decent housing is an essential component of a person's physical safety and well-being

"Being an ex-smoker who feels healthier, I wanted to do what I can as a manager to protect my maintenance staff and to give my disabled residents and their young children a place to live without being exposed to secondhand smoke. I have seen too many of my residents die of lung cancer and believe this change will be better for everyone."

— Richard Bowman, Property Manager of Greenbush Village Apartment

Landlords who have adopted no-smoking rules say they would **NEVER** go back!



"There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure, and even brief exposures can adversely affect the health of nonsmokers."

— U.S. Surgeon General, 2006



■ **No-smoking policies are an easy and affordable way to improve indoor air quality for all residents.**

"Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure." — U.S. Surgeon General, 2006

"At present the only means of effectively eliminating the health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity." — American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

"Because no smoking is allowed inside the building, my tenants do not have to contend with the smell or health hazards associated with secondhand smoke. Additionally, it is much easier to rent apartments in nonsmoking buildings because it appeals to more of the general public." — Steve Lyszczek, President of Distinctive Homes

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU MOVE FORWARD

LANDLORD TOOLS:

Visit www.smokefreehousingny.org for tools to implement your no-smoking policy.



Public Health partners are eager to work with housing providers to adopt no-smoking policies. Local tobacco prevention coordinators can work hand-in-hand with you to conduct tenant surveys, assist with informational resident sessions, prepare for board presentations, link smokers who want to quit with resources, etc.

QUITTING RESOURCES:

If a resident wants to learn about and get support to quit smoking, the New York State Smokers Quitline can help! Either you or the resident can call the New York State Smokers Quitline at **1-866 NY-QUITS** (1-866-697- 8487)



NEW YORK STATE SMOKERS' QUITLINE

1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487) • www.nysmokefree.com