



SMOKE FREE PUBLIC HOUSING

An Overview from HUD's Perspective





INTRODUCTION – SMOKE FREE PUBLIC HOUSING

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INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING (PIH)

- **Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH)**
Office of Public Housing Programs
Management and Occupancy Division
- **The role of the Office of Public and Indian Housing is to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing; create opportunities for residents' self-sufficiency and economic independence; and assure fiscal integrity by all program participants.**
- **Approximately 1.2 million households live in PH units that are managed by some 3200 Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)**





BACKGROUND ON PIH'S SMOKE FREE PH GUIDANCE

- **Historically, PIH did not provide guidance to PHAs on smoke free public housing.**
- **HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) organized a smoke free housing session at a national housing conference in October, 2008.**
- **OHHLHC and PH-MOD collaboratively developed PIH guidance in Notice: PIH-2009-21 . The Notice was issued in July, 2009.**





BACKGROUND ON PIH'S SMOKE FREE PH GUIDANCE CONTD.

Why Smoke Free Public Housing Policies?

- **Smoking is the number one cause of preventable disease in the US (American Lung Association)**
- **Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) can migrate between units, causing or worsening respiratory illness, heart disease, cancer and asthma in neighboring families.**
- **Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in multifamily buildings.**





PIH'S CURRENT GUIDANCE ON SMOKE FREE PH

- **July 2009 Notice** "... strongly encourages Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to implement non-smoking policies in some or all of their public housing units."
- **PHAs are given policy discretion in implementation.**
 - i.e. Grandfathering existing smoking tenants, designating certain units or areas as smoke free etc.
- **Additional guidance:**
 - Consult with resident board before adopting policy
 - Update annual plan to reflect change in policy
 - Revise lease agreement or house rules
 - Consistent application in locations where policy is in place





SMOKE FREE PUBLIC HOUSING CASE LAW

- **There are no reported cases of residents challenging a smoke free policy in a PHA.**
- **There is case law on the PHA's responsibility for smoke drifting between units.**





POLICY CHALLENGES AROUND SMOKE FREE HOUSING

- **Implementation through lease or house rules**
- **Notice to residents**
- **Noncompliance with the smoke free policy**





THE FUTURE OF SMOKE FREE PUBLIC HOUSING

- **Current Multifamily guidance**
- **HUD's Strategic Goals**
 - Goal 3B – "Utilize HUD assistance to improve health outcomes."





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