

What is Smoke-Free NYCHA?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all public housing to be smoke-free by July 30, 2018. To meet this mandate, NYCHA's smoke-free initiative, Smoke-Free NYCHA, is designed to create healthier homes for residents and healthier working environments for employees by reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and providing support to residents and employees who smoke and want to quit.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. Secondhand smoke can lead to stroke, heart attack, and cancer, and can trigger asthma attacks. Children and seniors, nearly half of NYCHA residents, are often the most impacted by secondhand smoke. Eliminating smoking indoors and close to buildings is the best way to protect people from exposure to second hand smoke.

Partnering with Residents, the NYC Health Department and Other Leaders

- In spring 2017, NYCHA and the Health Department hosted community meetings on smoking and health that generated hundreds of ideas from residents on the new initiative.
- The NYCHA Advisory Group on Smoking and Health, formed in June 2017, is helping to guide the development of outreach and supportive services.
- Over 1,500 residents at 54 NYCHA developments participated in Smoke-Free NYCHA Family Day interactive activities.
- Smoke-Free NYCHA is described in the 2018 Annual Plan, which was available for review by NYCHA's Resident Advisory Board members and members of the public.

Protecting Resident Health

A 2012 citywide NYCHA survey found that over 70 percent of NYCHA residents would prefer to live in a smoke-free building. Smoke-Free NYCHA is working with resident leaders and partners to slowly but surely build solid, gradual change, improving indoor air quality across NYCHA developments.



Morrisania Air Rights residents share feedback at Family Day in July 2017

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Join us for an upcoming meeting to learn more about the policy, upcoming lease changes, and resources that can help smokers quit. Details on NYCHA's website: on.nyc.gov/nycha-smoke-free.

Questions? Ideas? Contact NYCHA Health Initiatives at smoke-free@nycha.nyc.gov or (212) 306-8282.



Smoke-Free NYCHA



FAST FACTS

The New Smoke-Free Policy Is Under Development

- NYCHA will establish a graduated enforcement approach to addressing violations, as HUD recommends.
- Graduated enforcement means NYCHA will respond to violations with escalated warnings and specific, progressive enforcement remedies while also connecting residents to resources.

Smoking Is Already Prohibited in Some Areas

- At NYCHA, smoking is already prohibited in indoor common areas such as lobbies, hallways, stairwells and elevators, as well as in management offices.
- The new policy will also prohibit the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and hookah pipes within public housing units and in outdoor areas within 25 feet of NYCHA buildings.

NYCHA Is Learning from Other Housing Authorities

- A smoke-free policy is a standard for green and healthy housing operators.
- Over 600 public housing authorities already have smoke-free policies in place.
- The Philadelphia Housing Authority adopted a policy in 2015 and found that nicotine levels in indoor air were nearly cut in half.
- NYCHA residents established a successful smoke-free pilot at 830 Amsterdam Avenue in 2014.

Smoke-Free NYCHA Timeline

- Winter 2018: Residents receive notice of the future lease change and Smoke-Free NYCHA meetings launch at developments.
- Spring 2018: Lease amendments mailed to all households, development meetings continue.
- Summer 2018: Policy takes effect **July 30, 2018.**

NEED HELP QUITTING?

Talk with your doctor: health insurance may cover services to help you quit
Visit nysmokefree.com or call **1-866-NY-QUITS** or **311** to get a free starter kit and counseling

Visit [facebook.com/nycquits](https://www.facebook.com/nycquits)

Visit nyc.gov and search for "NYC Quits" to find a local quit-smoking program