

CLEAN AIR FOR ALL

THE SMOKE-FREE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT

November 12, 2020

In the News: New York City Housing Authority Secondhand Smoke Policy Needs More Time & Effort to Show How Well It Works



New York City Housing Authority Secondhand Smoke Policy...

One year into a smoking ban in buildings run by the nation's largest public housing authority, tenant exposure to secondhand smoke in hallways, stairwells, and apartments has not declined, a new study shows. Among the explanations for this,...

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Our Take

The findings described in the article above serve as a good reminder that smoke-free housing policies require time and commitment. Changing the culture around smoking in a PHA doesn't happen overnight, and in large PHAs like NYCHA, it could take years.

As noted by study senior author Donna Shelley, MD, MPH, a professor at the NYU School of Global Public Health, "it doesn't mean that the policy has failed." Rather, it is an opportunity to reevaluate the smoke-free policy and work with HUD and

partners to take steps towards improvement.

According to the article, NYCHA has already taken steps including:

- Developing a streamlined system for tracking complaints
- Assigning responsibility for enforcement
- Communicating the consequences of policy violations
- Adding new signage in most buildings
- Launching the Smoke-Free NYCHA Housing Liaison program to help residents get the help they need to quit smoking

Clean Air for All applauds NYCHA for their commitment to the success of their smoke-free policy!

Smoke-Free Public Housing Compliance & Enforcement Toolkit

Clean Air for All offers a free **Compliance and Enforcement Toolkit** for smoke-free public housing. The toolkit includes resources to promote compliance, ensure equitable enforcement, and connect residents with cessation support.

The toolkit is available digitally and PHAs can request hard copies.



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Clean Air for All: The Smoke-Free Public Housing Project is a collaboration of [Live Smoke Free \(LSF\)](#) a program of the Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota and the [National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials \(NAHRO\)](#). This project is made possible with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.