

2015-
2016

Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

Smoke-Free Housing Plan

Board Approved:
Resolution #:





Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority SMOKE-FREE HOUSING PLAN



2015-2016

Purpose

The purpose of the Smoke-Free Housing Plan is to mitigate the known health effects of second-hand smoke in Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) buildings. There shall be no smoking in any of CMHA buildings including the individual dwelling units of the residents, lobbies, halls, laundry rooms, community rooms, including any other common rooms or spaces in the buildings.

In addition, Smoke-free housing is intended to decrease operational and maintenance costs including lowering the risk of fire in CMHA units.

Smoke-Free Housing does not mean that smokers are prohibited from living at Smoke-Free buildings. It simply means that residents and visitors must smoke outdoors in designated areas.

It is important to note that several partner agencies (ex: American Lung Association) are currently working with CMHA to ease the transition process for residents who smoke. Our partners will continue to work directly with the residents and property sites to offer education and cessation services over the next two years. These services include access to cessation programs, patches, a trained tobacco cessation specialist, support groups, referrals, and other resources.

While the Smoke-Free Housing Plan does not require smokers to quit or to move, CMHA will offer smoking cessation and education and make available resources to all CMHA residents during the implementation period and upon request when the Smoke-Free Housing Plan is in effect.

Definition of Smoking

The term “smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, breathing or carrying any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other tobacco product, as well as marijuana or any other similar lighted product in any manner or any form including e-cigarettes.



HUD’s Proposed Rule

On November 12, 2015, HUD Secretary Castro announced a proposed rule to make the nation’s public housing properties entirely smoke-free. HUD’s proposed rule would require more than 3,100 public housing agencies across the country to implement smoke-free policies in their developments within 18 months of the final rule. (There is a 60 day comment period prior to the implementation of the final rule.)





Implementation

CMHA will begin implementing the Smoke-Free Plan beginning July 1, 2016 with completion of the implementation process scheduled for December 31, 2016 for all properties.

CMHA will hold a series of meetings to provide residents with information regarding the benefits of the Smoke-Free Housing Plan and to discuss how the Plan will be implemented. CMHA will actively partner with Creating Healthy Communities Coalition, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and other social service organizations that can sponsor at no-cost smoking cessation or support opportunities to all CMHA residents who are interested.

Smoke-Free Buildings

All buildings located on CMHA property will be Smoke-Free buildings. Smoking is prohibited in Smoke-Free buildings by residents and their guests and all others including staff and contractors within the buildings, and within a twenty-five foot perimeter outside of the buildings or common areas. There will be “designated smoking areas” on each CMHA property where applicable. Residents living in Smoke-Free buildings agree to and acknowledge the Smoke-Free Housing Plan when they sign or renew their lease. Violating the Smoke-Free Housing Plan including any common areas or within the 25 foot perimeter of the building entrance, window, and public sidewalks will constitute corrected actions from the resident or will result in lease termination. CMHA’s preference is to educate and to encourage resident compliance.



Upon adoption of the Smoke-Free Plan, all residents presently living in CMHA properties will be given two copies of the Plan. After review, the resident will sign a copy and return to their site management office to be placed in the resident’s file.

Smoke-Free Housing Plan Enforcement

Any documented violations to the Smoke-Free Housing Plan will be addressed as follows:

- **First Violation** – Resulting from sniff test, ash trays, yellow paint from staff or complaint – Informal Verbal Written Notice;
- **Second Violation** – Meeting with resident – Resident to sign Affidavit (agreeing not to smoke in unit/building/common areas);
- **Third Violation** – Cure to Remedy Situation – 30 Days;
- **Fourth Violation** – Begin Eviction Proceedings.



CMHA to Promote Smoke-Free Housing Plan

The CMHA shall post no-smoking signs at building entrances and promote Smoke-Free Housing as appropriate in meetings and discussions with residents. CHMA will continue to conduct outreach with various service providers and hold informational sessions with the residents regarding the Smoke-Free Housing Plan. CMHA will also post signs identifying designated smoking areas.

Residents to Promote Smoke-Free Housing Plan

Residents shall be expected to inform their guests and occupants of CMHA's Smoke-Free Housing Plan.

CMHA Not a Guarantor of Resident Health

The Smoke-Free Housing Plan does not make the CMHA a guarantor of resident health or of the smoke-free condition of the resident's unit or common areas, building or grounds. However, the CMHA staff shall take reasonable steps to enforce the Smoke-Free Housing Plan. The preference of CMHA is to educate and to encourage compliance including providing references to assist residents live a healthier life style.

Disclaimer by the CMHA

Residents and household members shall acknowledge that the CMHA's adoption of a Smoke-Free Housing Plan and the efforts to designate the premises as Smoke-Free does not in any way change the standard of care that the CMHA would have to the household to render buildings and premises any safer or more habitable or improved in terms of air quality standards than any other rental property. The CMHA cannot be and does not warranty or promise that the rental premises or common areas will be free from second-hand smoke. The residents and household members shall acknowledge that the CMHA's ability to police, monitor or enforce the agreements of the Smoke-Free Housing addendum is dependent in significant part on voluntary compliance by residents and residents' guests. Residents with respiratory ailments, allergies, or any other physical or mental conditions relating to smoke are put on notice that the CMHA does not assume any higher duty of care to enforce the Smoke-Free Housing Plan than any other CMHA responsibility under lease.

Plan Review

CMHA staff will provide an annual update to CMHA's Board of Commissioners regarding the Smoke-Free Housing Plan and recommendations for any modifications to the Plan if needed.

*Clean Air
Because
We Care*



Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority



SMOKE-FREE HOUSING

Implementation Schedule

AMP	Survey	Meetings	Plan/Approval	Effective Date
JRAB		September 29, 2015		
201/208	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
202/203/212	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
204	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
205/207/216	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
206/218	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
209	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
210	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
211	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
213	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
214	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
215	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
217	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
218	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016

Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)				
Property	Survey	Meetings	Plan/Approval	Effective Date
Baldwin Grove	N/A	October 6, 2015		July 1, 2016
Maple Tower	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
Evanston	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
Beechwood	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
San Marco	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
Riverview	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
Suterview	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016
City West Lincoln I, II, Laurel II, II, IV	Before/After	February/April//June 2016		July 1, 2016

