

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2017

CONTACT: Cynthia Hallett, MPH
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights
510-841-3045
cynthia.hallett@no-smoke.org

Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights Statement on Implementation of HUD Smokefree Rule

[Berkeley, CA] February 3, 2017: Today, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [smokefree public housing rule](#) goes into effect. While more than 670 Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in 44 states already have a strong smokefree policy, those that do not now have 18 months to implement a policy that requires all indoor areas of public housing properties to be smokefree, as well as within 25 feet of buildings.

HUD's rule is part of the broader trend for smokefree living environments in order to protect health and to reduce cleaning and maintenance costs and fire risk. At least 35 municipalities have enacted local laws requiring all types of multi-unit housing to be smokefree. Also, property owners, management companies, and condo associations throughout the country continue to adopt smokefree policies for their buildings.

PHAs provide affordable housing to 1.2 million households including low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. HUD's new smokefree rule is an important public health measure that will reduce secondhand smoke exposure and create a healthier and safer living environment for residents.

Currently, 85% of U.S. adults are nonsmokers and the demand for smokefree living environments will continue to increase. Secondhand smoke is more than a nuisance; it is a serious health hazard and a top preventable cause of chronic disease and death. Smoking in one unit typically means other residents in the building are also exposed because smoke travels throughout a building. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Gimmicks like air purifiers or fans do not address the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

ANR has materials available to support PHAs in implementing smokefree policies at www.no-smoke.org/homes.html. The newest resource is [model policy language](#) that PHAs can use to adopt a strong smokefree policy.

Additional materials include a tip sheet on [Supporting Implementation of HUD's Smokefree Public Housing Rule](#), a [Model Smokefree Lease Addendum](#), [Advice for Enforcing a Smokefree Housing Policy](#), and a [Secondhand Smoke in Housing infographic](#).

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[Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights](#), established in 1976, is a national, member-based, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping nonsmokers breathe smokefree air in workplaces and public places.