

Housing Authority City of Bradenton Public Housing Proposed Smoke Free Policy

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published a rule that will require all Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to establish smoke-free policies in public housing buildings. The rule prohibits all smoking inside and within 25 feet of the exterior of all public housing buildings. The Housing Authority City of Bradenton (HACB) is working with Tobacco Free Florida to establish a rule to protect our residents from harm, to shield our buildings from damage and to provide a safe, clean and comfortable living environment for the members of our community.

Purpose of Smoke Free Policy:

1. To mitigate the irritation and known health effects of secondhand smoke.
2. To allow all staff the opportunity to perform their job duties in an environment that is non-smoking.
3. Minimize the maintenance, cleaning, and redecorating cost caused by smoking.
4. Decrease the risk of smoking-related fires to property and personal safety.

Definition of Smoking:

The term "smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, breathing, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, electronic cigarette, waterpipes/hookahs, or any other similar lighted product in any manner or in any form.

Non-Smoking Areas:

Smoking will not be permitted anywhere in the building, including apartments, in accordance with the following guideline. Effective on September 1, 2017 all current residents, all employees, all guests, and all new residents of HACB Public Housing after this date will be prohibited from smoking anywhere in the building, including in apartment units and within 25 feet of the exterior of all HACB properties.

Any deviation from the smoke-free policy by any tenant, member of their household, or their guest will be considered a lease violation.

"No Smoking" signs will be posted throughout our public housing sites.

Smoking outside the building will be limited to the designated smoking areas. These designated smoking areas will be clearly marked and the HACB will provide a means for proper disposal of smoked products.

If a resident smells tobacco smoke in any place in the building, they are to report this to the HACB main office as soon as possible. Management will seek to identify the source of the smoke and take appropriate action.

Cost and Benefits of Proposed Smoke-Free Rule:

A 2014 CDC study estimated that the annual cost savings associated with banning smoking in public and subsidized housing to be \$153 million. Health care costs accounted for \$94 million, and renovation and fire related costs accounted for \$43 million and \$16 million, respectively.

When the rule is implemented, smoking in prohibited areas will be a lease violation. While eviction is a possible final result of policy enforcement, HUD is encouraging a graduated enforcement approach with escalating warnings and opportunities for behavior change. Lease termination will be a last resort.

For more information about our smoke-free policy, please contact: The HACB Recertification Specialist at 941-748-5568 Extension 225.

Housing Authority City of Bradenton Smoke Free Policy Violation Procedures

First Violation: Notice of Concern warning in file.

Second Violation: Mandatory meeting with management, document information in file, seven day curable.

Third Violation: Mandatory meeting with management staff, 30-day non curable issued and eviction filed. Resident will be offered a binding stipulation agreement. If they agree to the stipulation agreement, it will be signed and filed with the court. The case will be dismissed after 12 months of compliance. Resident will be required to pay attorney cost and court fees. Resident must complete an approved free smoking cessation class.

Fourth Violation: Resident is under a stipulation agreement. By them or a family member violating the Smoke Free Policy they have violated the stipulation agreement. An affidavit will be filed by the management and the eviction process will be completed and a writ issued. Resident will be required to pay all attorney fees and cost.

Designated Smoking Areas for HACB Public Housing Sites

See Property Maps for designated smoking areas throughout HACB-owned properties.

Advantages of Smoke Free Community!

A smoke-free community may encourage you to quit smoking, if you are a smoker. Here are some additional advantages:

1. **You will save money-** You probably spend around \$1500 annually for every pack of cigarettes that you smoke each day.
2. **You will be a better neighbor-** Your smoke does not stay in your unit. Up to 65% of the air is re-circulated between units. Second hand smoke from your unit can set off a breathing or allergy attack in your neighbor.
3. **Save the life of a loved one-** Second hand smoke can increase your family's risk of cancer, heart attack, stroke, or death.

For more information on the work of the Tobacco Free Partnership in Manatee County, contact Rachel Guy at Rachel.guy@flhealth.gov.