

Non-Smoking Policy DRAFT Seattle Housing Authority

Purpose of No-Smoking 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 costs associated with smoking.
4. Decrease the risk of smoking-related fires to property and personal safety

Proposal

It is proposed that the non-smoking policy is expanded to and implemented in all Seattle Housing properties including Low Income Public Housing, Hope VI, Special Portfolio and privately managed properties, effective February 1, 2012.

Non- Smoking Areas

Smoking will not be permitted in individual apartment homes or the common spaces of a SHA community or facility of any type, unless otherwise specified.

Definition of smoking: The term “smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, breathing or carrying any lit cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other similar tobacco product in any manner or in any form.

- ❖ **Individual apartment homes** are defined as the interior and exterior spaces tied to a particular unit. This includes, but is not limited to, bedrooms, hallways, kitchens, bathroom, patios, balconies and unit entryway areas.
- ❖ **Designated smoking areas** will be indicated on each property's map if applicable.

Those affected by the no-smoking policy

This policy applies to everyone including residents, guests, visitors, service personnel and SHA employees who visits, lives and works at SHA properties.

The new no-smoking policy **does not** mean that residents/employees will have to quit smoking in order to live and/or work at SHA properties/campus. The new policy will only limit smoking to designated areas.

No-Smoking Signage

SHA properties (as indicated) and campus shall post “No Smoking” signs at designated locations.

Community and Resident Meetings

Community and resident meetings were conducted for each affected building and/or community. Forty pre-policy meetings were held to share survey results, discuss policy options, and provide tobacco cessation resources. Twenty post-policy meetings will be held to go over policy details, how to comply, what is involved, and provide continued tobacco cessation resources. Opportunities to ask questions and provide comments or concerns will be available at all meetings.

Public Forum and Public Hearing

A Public Forum with several panel member experts in the fields of housing, public health and safety was conducted in August 2011 to discuss the benefits and obstacles to implementing smoke-free policies. Residents were able to ask questions and receive additional information. A Public Hearing was conducted in September 2011 to allow resident testimony on a non-smoking policy. Resident testimony was also collected from a formal 30-day Public Comment period throughout the month of September.

Lease addendum

Residents will be required to sign a lease addendum that specifies smoking will be prohibited inside all apartment units, indoor common areas, and within 25' from any entrances/exits and windows. The non-smoking policy is not a campus wide ban on smoking and will only focus on indoor smoking practices.

Cessation Education

To assist all residents with the non-smoking policy transition and to accommodate resident interest in smoking cessation, the Agency is committed to providing cessation education and outreach. Cessation education and outreach will be provided to all residents through a partnership with Public Health Seattle and King County and the Washington State Department of Health Tobacco Quit Line. Outreach and education will begin prior to the implementation of the non-smoking policy and will be provided on a continuous basis to residents through site staff.