



## SDHC Smoke-Free Policy

Effective February 1, 2014

The San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) Smoke-Free Policy prohibits smoking anywhere at the more than 2,000 affordable housing units owned by SDHC and the 154 Federal public housing units operated by SDHC.

Smoking lighted pipes, cigars or cigarettes of any kind, including electronic cigarettes and cigarettes made from any weed or plant, is not permitted.

### Smoking is not allowed in:

- Individual residents' apartments
- Entryways
- Porches
- Balconies and patios
- Interior common areas
  - Community rooms
  - Community bathrooms
  - Lobbies
  - Reception areas
  - Hallways
  - Laundry rooms
  - Stairways
  - Offices
  - Elevators
- Within 25 feet of the buildings

### The policy applies to:

- Residents
- Residents' guests
- SDHC employees or contractors working on-site

SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy went into effect on **February 1, 2014.**

**Contact:** [SDHCsmokefreepolicy@sdhc.org](mailto:SDHCsmokefreepolicy@sdhc.org)



*SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy prohibits smoking anywhere at SDHC-owned residential properties.*

## Reduced Maintenance Costs

- The Smoke-Free Policy is also expected to reduce maintenance costs for SDHC.
- A 2009 study based on surveys of housing authorities and subsidized housing facilities in New England determined the average cost of rehabilitating apartments:
  - \$560 for a nonsmoking unit
  - \$1,810 for a unit where light smoking occurred
  - \$3,515 for a unit with heavy smoking
- The data were collected and reported by Smoke-Free Housing New England.

## Help for Smokers

- Any tenant who wants to quit smoking may obtain information from the American Lung Association, 2750 4th Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, or call (619) 297-3901, or visit [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org).



Following a 2012 California law that authorized landlords to prohibit smoking at their rental properties, SDHC adopted a Smoke-Free Policy for all SDHC-owned apartment buildings.

- SDHC-owned apartments provide affordable homes for low-income San Diegans.
- On February 1, 2013, SDHC's Real Estate Division began using a lease addendum to notify new tenants and residents who were renewing their leases that SDHC may be implementing a Smoke-Free Policy in the future.
- The SDHC Board of Commissioners approved the adoption of the Smoke-Free Policy on May 10, 2013.
- The Smoke-Free Policy received the unanimous approval of the San Diego City Council, sitting as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego, on June 11, 2013.
- SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy has been in effect since **February 1, 2014**, providing tenants with ample notice.
- Smokers can still live in SDHC-owned apartments, but they cannot smoke on the premises.
- For more information about the adoption of SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy, board reports are accessible on SDHC's website:
  - [www.sdhc.org/HCR13033ImplementationofNonSmokingPolicyALL.aspx](http://www.sdhc.org/HCR13033ImplementationofNonSmokingPolicyALL.aspx)
  - [www.sdhc.org/HAR13010ImplementationofSmokeFreePolicyonSDHCPropertiesALL.aspx](http://www.sdhc.org/HAR13010ImplementationofSmokeFreePolicyonSDHCPropertiesALL.aspx)



## Tenant Support

- Before moving forward with the Smoke-Free Policy, SDHC surveyed tenants.
- SDHC distributed surveys to 2,186 tenants living in SDHC-owned housing units.
- SDHC received 764 completed surveys.
- Of those who responded, 65 percent said they prefer a smoke-free building.

## Tenant Health – National Issue

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a notice on July 17, 2009, that strongly encouraged public housing authorities in the United States to implement nonsmoking policies at some or all of their properties.
- HUD reissued the notice on May 29, 2012.
- HUD made its recommendation because “environmental tobacco smoke can migrate between units in multifamily housing, causing respiratory illness, heart disease, cancer, and other adverse health effects for those living in neighboring residences.”

