

## New Tobacco & Smoke- Free Policy at Greensboro Housing Authority



Starting May 1, 2018, all Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) properties will be tobacco and smoke-free. On December 5, 2016, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) finalized a rule that requires all public housing authorities to implement a smoke-free policy. HUD supports implementation of smoke-free policies because they improve air quality, and reduce fire risk, unit turnover time and maintenance costs. Additionally, second-hand and third-hand smoke pose serious health risks. Furthermore, it has been well established that smoking cessation has demonstrated overall health benefits for individuals.

This Tobacco/Smoke-Free Policy will prohibit smoking and use of tobacco products on all GHA properties for all current residents, new residents, GHA employees, vendors, all guests and other individuals under a resident's control. The policy outlines that smoking and use of tobacco products

will be prohibited on all GHA properties including inside apartment units, on housing grounds, in community centers and administrative buildings. For the purpose of this policy, "smoking" includes but is not limited to lit and inhaled tobacco and marijuana, in any form including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookah and electronic cigarettes or incense products. In addition, "use of tobacco products," also includes snuff/chew. "Electronic smoking device" means any product containing and delivering nicotine for the purpose of inhaling vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device sold whether as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-hookah, or vape pen or under any other product name.

Implementing a Smoke-Free policy provides residents and staff with a healthier and safer environment. The following website: <https://hud.gov/smokefreepublichousing> is a great resource website in understanding HUD's Smoke Free Policy.

Currently, GHA has provided information to residents through meetings, providing support information on the toll-free NC Quitline 1-800-Quit-Now (784-8669) and will continue to issue smoke-free housing resource materials.