

CITY OF MADISON
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 14, 2016

To: CDA Board of Directors

From: Agustin Olvera, Housing Director

Subject: No smoking policy change in Public Housing

HUD has announced that it is moving toward a No Smoking Policy in Public Housing. They announced the Proposed Rule and took comments through December of 2015. It is anticipated they will announce the Final Rule soon. They have indicated they will give housing authorities 18 months after issuance of the Final Rule to implement a non smoking policy.

The CDA implemented a non smoking policy for Truax Phase II (40 new units) in October of 2015, there have been no complaints or compliance problems. CDA staff proposes to begin implementation this fall. All new move in and recertification leases will have the no smoking clause in their lease. Approximately 12 months later all public housing resident leases will contain the clause and the no smoking policy will be in effect for all.

Issues of concern:

Smoking cessation – The City/County Public Health Department has a staff person who is working to help apartment owners convert to non smoking buildings. They are offering residents assistance with smoking cessation programs. This will help those who want to quit smoking.

Smoking areas for those who continue to smoke – CDA properties have some park benches located away from its buildings where people can be directed. Some additional cigarette receptacles may be needed. No additional benches or shelters are anticipated.

Compliance – It is anticipated that most residents will comply. Some residents who have mental health and drug and alcohol related issues may have difficulty with this. The CDA and Public Health will work with those residents. Other agencies working with residents may also be involved. Staff would not anticipate any evictions except as a last resort.