HUD Smokefree Public Housing Implementation Update

On February 15, 2017, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a memo on the smokefree public housing rule which took effect on February 3rd. The memo outlined the implementation process and timeline of the new rule, including guidance on lease provisions, signage, and funding. HUD also sent a letter to all public housing authority executive directors with details on the implementation and resources to assist in the transition to smokefree public housing.

All public housing authorities are to design and implement a policy prohibiting the use of all tobacco products within public housing units, interior common areas and outdoor areas within 25 feet from public housing and administrative office buildings. The publication of this memo is a clear indication that the implementation of the new guidelines is underway and set to meet the July 30, 2018 deadline.

Over 3,000 housing agencies across the country will go smokefree as a result of the HUD rule. This equates to over 1 million people protected from secondhand smoke in their homes, including 760,000 children.