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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY IS LARGEST PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY IN ILLINOIS TO BECOME 100% SMOKE FREE BEFORE DEADLINE

Agency Complies with HUD's Proposed Rule One Year in Advance

(Cook County) – The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) today announced that it implemented a 100 percent smoke free policy at all 23 of its housing properties one year in advance of HUD's new smoke free rule.

On December 1, 2015, all HACC properties transitioned to smoke-free environments and more than 3,500 HACC residents have access to smoke-free living.

HACC Executive Director Richard Monocchio praised HUD's actions today in issuing a final rule and emphasized the importance of healthy living for residents.

"Since 2009, HUD has strongly encouraged public housing agencies to adopt smoke-free policies to protect the health of residents, and we are proud to go beyond HUD's proposed rule to institute a smoke free housing policy one year in advance by mandating that all of our properties are smoke free," Monocchio said.



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Surveys were taken across 14 developments, and several questions were asked pertaining to smoke in the environment and the adoption of a smoke-free policy. The population was pulled from various diverse developments including the elderly, disabled, and family use. More than 50 percent of HACC residents completed the survey and of the surveys conducted, a majority of HACC residents support going smoke free.

In addition to providing access to smoke-free living to more than 1,900 units across suburban Cook County, expected health benefits include protecting over 1,800 people from exposure to secondhand smoke and over 550 quitting smoking.

This life saving achievement is the result of a year-long collaboration between HACC and CCDPH, and a shared dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of HACC residents.

Smoking is prohibited inside the public areas of the housing sites, which also includes the units. Smoking is permitted 25 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open or ventilation intakes.

The Housing Authority of Cook County is the largest housing authority in Illinois to transition **all** of its properties to smoke free buildings before the HUD deadline. The HACC manages and owns over 1,800 public housing units and 200 multifamily units

For more information about the Housing Authority of Cook County, please visit us at www.thehacc.org; www.facebook.com/theHACC or www.twitter.com/theHACCTweets.

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