



Building Communities and Changing Lives.....

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Richard J. Monocchio
Executive Director

Dear Members of the HACC Community,

We are writing to clarify HACC's policy on the use of cannabis products in HACC-subsidized housing programs, to lay out the legal basis for this policy, and to provide a path to address questions you might have about the use of cannabis after Jan. 1, 2020.

The Illinois General Assembly recently passed the *Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act*. This act effectively legalizes the production, consumption and sale of cannabis (marijuana) in the State of Illinois. This will become effective at the beginning of the New Year.

However, despite these changes, federal law remains in direct conflict with the new Illinois state law. Specifically, the *Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act* prohibits the use, possession or sale of controlled substances in any federally-subsidized housing which includes all properties receiving financial assistance from the Housing Authority of Cook County. As of today, the *Controlled Substance Act* (CSA) lists cannabis as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Therefore, as required by federal law, medical or recreational use of marijuana will remain prohibited in the Housing Authority's housing programs. This includes participants using Housing Choice ("Section 8") Vouchers in the private rental market, tenants in properties using project-based vouchers, HACC family sites and HACC-owned or managed low-income public housing.

In addition, it is important to remember that smoking of **any** substance (including, but not limited to marijuana or tobacco products) is prohibited in properties managed by HACC per our Smoke-Free Policy. We are happy to relay that HACC's Smoke-Free Policy has seen much success. To date, HACC has not experienced a single eviction incident due to smoking-related cause since this policy was enacted in 2015. We have the members of our community to thank for this easy transition, and we expect similar results as they pertain to HACC's cannabis policy.

It is the shared responsibility of our community to promote healthy behaviors and ensure all members follow the law – we also know that conflicting laws can cause confusion for everyone. If you have any questions regarding HACC's policy on cannabis, we encourage you to reach out by emailing cannabis@thehacc.org.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Monocchio
Executive Director, Housing Authority of Cook County

