

From: Britnye_Underwood@doh.state.fl.us [mailto:Britnye_Underwood@doh.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Elizabeth ONeill
Subject: RE: Florida Housing website comment

Hi Libby,

I apologize for the delay but the person who was to approve this comment was out sick and then took leave!!

“I am writing to comment on the importance of including smoke-free housing policies as part of Florida Housing Finance Corporation’s preservation initiatives for low-income multi-unit housing. Smoke-free housing policies reduce turnover costs and help eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, a factor that results in nearly 50,000 deaths annually in the United States. Tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure rates are higher among individuals with a low socioeconomic status, and implementing a smoke-free housing policy in public housing can help with the preservation initiatives and protect the health of this vulnerable population, many of whom often have other health risk factors due to their income level. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is supportive of smoke-free housing and has issued several memorandums encouraging their properties to implement such policies as they protect against secondhand smoke exposure and help with building preservation. Cigarettes are a leading cause of residential fires and the cost to turnover a unit that was previously inhabited by a smoker can be exponentially higher than normal repair costs. Partnering with your local Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is a great way to gain assistance with policy implementation in low-income housing to reduce costs and protect residents.”

Thank you.

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