

## Washoe County Chronic Disease Prevention Program

### Tobacco Prevention and Control: Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing Gains Traction



**Success Summary:** During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Washoe County Health District's Smoke-free Multi-Unit Housing (SF MUH) program assisted staff at nine properties adopt smoke-free policies. The program's online smoke-free living directory now lists 49 smoke-free apartment options (2,752 units) for Washoe County renters. The SF MUH program prides itself on being fluid to help properties transition to smoke-free in a way that works best for their organization. The examples below highlight the various ways we've worked with different properties and organizations in Washoe County.

#### Property Highlights:

**Gorelick Rentals (176 Units):** The Washoe County Health District (WCHD) has had a partnership with Gorelick Rentals since 2014. This fiscal year, Gorelick Rentals has acquired six multi-unit housing properties. Each location has adopted a 100% smoke-free property policy.

**Grove Manor (80 Units):** This apartment complex is located in a low-income neighborhood in Reno, NV and has started the transition to adopt a smoke-free policy. WCHD staff worked closely with the property manager to provide technical assistance every step of the way. Technical assistance included a range of activities, from drafting resident notices, to designing signage.

**Northern Nevada Community Housing (330 units):** This organization is vital to the Washoe County area, as they provide affordable housing to some of the area's most vulnerable individuals, some of which are veterans or transitioning from homelessness. WCHD staff posted 354 surveys at ten NNCH properties and received valuable and novel data regarding attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs about smoke-free housing practices among this population. The data indicate a need to reduce disparities related to tobacco smoking among this population and present possible opportunities and challenges properties may face if/when a smoke-free policy is implemented.

**Reno Housing Authority (RHA) (750+ units):** The RHA has a smoke-free policy in place at all of their properties. However, with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's new policy guidelines, the RHA is extending their current policy to include no smoking within 25 ft. of buildings (current policy is 20 ft.).

#### Economic Contributions:

The SF MUH program's multi-faceted efforts are complimented by local advertising and free resources, such as smoke-free signage, for properties. As of mid-way of the fiscal year, \$2,300 has been spent on print and digital ads with For Rent magazine and For Rent.com. Additionally, nearly \$360 has been spent on smoke-free signage for properties.

### NNCH Survey Key Findings

- ◇ 81.03% of respondents know secondhand smoke is harmful
- ◇ 44.83% of respondents smoke tobacco
- ◇ 35.09% of respondents allow tobacco smoking in their home
- ◇ 55.17% of respondents support an indoor no smoking policy
- ◇ 29.41% of respondents support a no smoking policy on balconies/patios
- ◇ 31.03% of respondents have been bothered by secondhand smoke drifting into their apartment

347 surveys were distributed to residents at ten MUH properties. There were 58 responses (16.7%).