HUD LTE Template

Revised June 12, 2018

Final LTEs should be no more than 250 words

**Smoke-Free Public Housing is Worth Celebrating**

Dear Editor,

START YOUR LETTER BY SHARING THAT AS OF Monday, JULY 30, ALL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES WILL BE SMOKE-FREE DUE TO A RULE PASSED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. THE RULE REQUIRES PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY PROHIBITING LIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN ALL LIVING UNITS AND INDOOR COMMON AREAS IN PUBLIC HOUSING AND PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDINGS.

TALK ABOUT WHY YOU FEEL THIS POLICY IS IMPORTANT (**YOU CAN PULL EXAMPLES FROM** [**https://tobwis.org/resources/view/9/National\_HUD\_Smoke\_Free\_Talking\_Points\_PDF.pdf**](https://tobwis.org/resources/view/9/National_HUD_Smoke_Free_Talking_Points_PDF.pdf)).

NOW TALK ABOUT WHAT BENEFITS ARE EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM THE RULE (**AGAIN, YOU CAN PULL EXAMPLES FROM** [**https://tobwis.org/resources/view/9/National\_HUD\_Smoke\_Free\_Talking\_Points\_PDF.pdf**](https://tobwis.org/resources/view/9/National_HUD_Smoke_Free_Talking_Points_PDF.pdf)).

SHARE THAT WHILE THE RULE DOESN’T MEAN TOBACCO USERS HAVE TO QUIT, THERE ARE OPTIONS TO HELP THEM IF THEY’RE READY TO GIVE UP TOBACCO FOR GOOD. THEY CAN CALL THE QUIT LINE AT 1-800-QUIT NOW (784-8669) FOR FREE ASSISTANCE. ALSO INCLUDE THAT THE MEDICAID BENEFIT COVERS THE COST OF MOST TOBACCO CESSATION MEDICINES (**FIND DETAILS AT** [**https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/tawxvetrn1tsapijo6v70fxn584qy424**](https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/tawxvetrn1tsapijo6v70fxn584qy424)). ENCOURAGE MEDICAID ENROLLEES TO TALK TO THEIR DOCTOR ABOUT THEIR COVERAGE.

CLOSE BY LETTING LOCAL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT YOUR NETWORK/COALITION IS THERE TO HELP THEM MAKE THE TRANSITION. ENCOURAGE THEM AND OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION BY VISITING **(COALITION URL, SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS, ETC.)**.