

# Smoke-Free Apartments

Secondhand smoke is smoke exhaled by a smoker or drifting from the burning end of a lit cigarette or other tobacco product.

Unwanted secondhand smoke can travel within a building through shared ventilation, heating systems, cracks in walls, openings around plumbing, under doors and through poor insulation.

People who live in multi-unit dwellings have a right to be concerned when unwanted smoke drifts into their apartments from smoking neighbors.



## Secondhand Smoke Health Hazards

- Secondhand smoke is NOT just a nuisance. It is a known health hazard.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Secondhand smoke causes respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, especially in infants, children and older persons, as well as other illnesses and diseases.
- Existing conditions like asthma, heart disease, emphysema and other chronic illnesses are made worse by secondhand smoke exposure.

## Smoke-Free Housing is Good for Building Owners & Managers

- 80% of Onondaga County residents do not smoke.
- Approximately 75% of Onondaga County residents do not allow smoking in their homes.
- Multi-unit dwellings, where smokers live, have higher cleaning and remodeling costs including frequent re-painting, plus carpet and flooring replacement costs.
- Smoking is the #1 cause of apartment fires, damaging buildings and killing residents.
- Smoking causes damage to residential property from fires, cigarette burns, and smoke residue on walls and curtains.
- Units where a smoker has lived, or where the smell of a neighbor's smoke is detectable, are harder to sell and/or rent.
- Some insurance companies offer lower premiums for residence buildings that are smokefree.



**Sign the commitment and make your building smoke-free today!**  
**Tobacco-Free Onondaga County will provide free signage and support.**  
**For more information, call (315)435-3280.**