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Quality and Productivity Commission
29th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
Champions of Change: Together We Make a Difference

2015 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):
PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS BREATHE EASIER

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: JULY 1, 2013
 (Must have been implemented at least one year - on or before July 1, 2014)

PROJECT STATUS: _____ Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? _____ Yes No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 On July 1, 2013, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) adopted
 2 a smoke-free policy for its 63 public housing developments. The policy protects families,
 3 youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities from the dangers of secondhand smoke.
 4 The policy was made possible through a systemized process of outreach activities,
 5 educational support, surveys, advocacy, collaboration, and campaigns. As of July 1,
 6 2013, current residents and new move-ins had the option to sign a "Non-Smoking Lease
 7 Agreement Addendum." HACoLA provided residents with a one-year transition period
 8 while providing smoke-free education and resources to residents. During the one-year
 9 transition phase, over 80% of public housing residents opted to sign an addendum to
 10 their lease pledging their unit as smoke-free before the mandatory implementation
 11 deadline of July 1, 2014. During the policy development phase, and the one-year
 12 transition phase, public housing residents broadly supported this smoke-free policy.
 13 Allowing public housing residents to breathe easier would not have been made possible
 14 without the direct partnership and support from the Los Angeles County Department of
 15 Public Health, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program.

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles 700 West Main Street Alhambra, CA 91801		TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-262-4510
PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Maria Badrakhan		TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-586-1900 EMAIL MARIA.BADRAKHAN@HACOLA.ORG
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE <small>(PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME)</small> Elisa Vasquez 	DATE 7/9/15	TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-586-1762 EMAIL Elisa.Vasquez@lacdc.org
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE Sean Rogan 	DATE 7/10/15	TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-586-1500

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1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **Challenge, Solution, and Benefits** of the project. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

Challenge:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Lung Association joined together in 2012 to advocate for the health of families living in federally-assisted housing by educating them on the dangers of secondhand smoke. These federal agencies developed a fact sheet on the dangers of secondhand smoke and collaborated on smoke-free housing toolkits to provide user-friendly information for use by landlords, including Public Housing Agencies, and for resident organizations. For several years, HUD has strongly encouraged Public Housing Agencies to adopt smoke-free policies to protect the health of its residents.

Secondhand smoke contains chemicals known to be toxic; those exposed are at increased risk of heart attacks, lung cancer, and asthma. According to research performed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 84% of children who live in apartments with parents who do not smoke show evidence of exposure to tobacco smoke. Long-term adverse outcomes in children include cognitive impairment, sudden infant death syndrome, reduced lung function, and deficits in reading and math. Secondhand smoke is responsible for as many as 73,000 deaths among non-smokers each year in the United States.

Solution:

In January 2012, HACoLA joined the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program (Public Health), to research, survey, and educate residents on the dangers of secondhand smoke with the end goal of adopting a smoke-free policy. Public Health conducted a survey of public housing residents to identify smokers/non-smokers. The results revealed fewer than 30% of the population were smokers, and 60% of the residents preferred to live in a non-smoking building.

Residents shared incidences where secondhand smoke drifted into their units through walkways, elevators, parking areas, balconies, patios, and outside recreation areas. In addition, Public Health surveyed HACoLA employees who work at housing developments and found 89% of employees supported a smoke-free policy.

As a result of these surveys and the extensive research on the negative health effects of secondhand smoke on residents, employees, and surrounding community, HACoLA pursued the implementation of a smoke-free policy for the 2,962 units of public housing it manages throughout Los Angeles County.

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As part of the implementation, Public Health made presentations to the Resident Associations and Advisory Boards at housing developments to garner support for the smoke-free policy, while collaborating with the University of California, Los Angeles American Medical Student Association who facilitated smoking cessation workshops at the public housing developments; over 400 residents participated in the sessions. Residents were surveyed and information was gathered on attitudes and behaviors toward secondhand smoke. Fact sheets and resources were sent to every household. Residents, for the most part, were very supportive and communication methods proved to be very effective. During this time, regular updates were given to hold all stakeholders accountable to the process. HACoLA management included the smoke-free policy on every internal policy group meeting agenda while Public Health presented to the Housing Commissioners and agency Executive Management to secure full support. On March 26, 2013, HACoLA's Board of Commissioners successfully approved the smoke-free policy.

On July 1, 2014, HACoLA strictly enforced the smoking prohibition on all properties, except at its South Bay Gardens senior housing development, which has a designated smoking area. All other properties remain completely smoke-free including, but not limited to, inside all residents' units, balconies, hallways, community rooms, laundry rooms, stairways, playgrounds, and all common areas.

Benefits:

Besides improving the quality of life of public housing residents, renovating vacant units is now much easier. Smoke seeps into every crack and crevice of a unit whereby making it necessary to perform additional maintenance and repairs. Special paint to cover smoke stains, replacing stained window blinds and curtains, replacing carpets and flooring damaged by cigarettes, and cleaning of the ducts increase the amount of work required to repair a unit for the next renter. Therefore, a smoke-free policy is an effective approach to preserve HACoLA's stock of public housing units.

HACoLA is proud to say that the smoke-free policy has not only given public housing residents the opportunity to breathe easier, but it has also advanced its goal to provide quality housing and safe environments for low-income families.

This project demonstrates the importance of establishing public policies that benefit a major sector of our vulnerable population. It also shows the successful collaboration between the Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, and HACoLA to achieve better health outcomes for public housing residents.

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (DETAIL IS REQUIRED FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS):

Goal #2: Community Support and Responsiveness

Goal #3: Integrated Services Delivery

In addition to promoting healthier living habits, the project created a healthier living environment in public housing developments. By responding to a real and perceived public need and with community input, the Department of Public Health and HACoLA responded to the community by integrating their service delivery to public housing residents. Together, healthier living is promoted while preventing and lessening future respiratory symptoms and diseases.

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COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFIT): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12 point font

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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FOR COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS ONLY

(For single department submissions, do not include this page)

DEPARTMENT NO. 2 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 313 N. FIGUEROA STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE CATHERINE MAK Signature on file	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE CYNTHIA A. HARDING Signature on file
DEPARTMENT NO. 3 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE
DEPARTMENT NO. 4 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE
DEPARTMENT NO. 5 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE
DEPARTMENT NO. 6 NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS	
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE