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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

*Lincoln County*

Date: August 22, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Smoke-Free Housing**

#### *Resources Available for Landlords Wanting to go Tobacco Free*

NEWPORT, Ore. – Our health is affected by the environment where we live, work, and play as much as our behaviors. Having a healthy place to live and raise our children is vital to having a healthy community. Exposure to second-hand or third-hand smoke and other tobacco products can have adverse effects, and unfortunately, residents living in rental units cannot always avoid this exposure if the property has limited or no policies about tobacco use.

The Lincoln County Health & Human Services Tobacco Prevention & Education Program is available to work with owners and managers of multi-unit housing and vacation rental dwellings. Resources are available to help with developing tobacco-free policies, notifying tenants of the policy, obtaining and posting signage, and getting cessation resources to interested tenants.

In addition to the many health benefits that come with smoke and tobacco-free properties, there are financial benefits for owners and managers. Smoke-free policies help to reduce fire hazards and damage that can happen if a combustible device is left unattended. These policies also reduce maintenance costs; tar from cigarettes collect over time on surfaces like walls and carpets. Costs to renovate an apartment occupied by a smoker can be \$2,000-\$3,000 as compared to \$200-\$500 for a unit occupied by a non-smoker. Non-smoking properties also attract more applicants. A statewide survey found that 70% of Oregon renters prefer living in smoke-free housing. Property owners can, and have the legal right to, decide what smoke, tobacco, or drug-free policy they want for their tenant occupied properties.

If you would like develop and implement a tobacco-free policy for your rental, contact Erin Parrish at 541-265-6611 ext. 3328 or Samantha Schafer at [541\)265-6611 ext. 3281](tel:5412656611) . For more information

about smoke-free housing and the resources that are available to create smoke and tobacco-free rental properties, visit the Lincoln County Tobacco Prevention and Education Program website <http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/hhs/page/smoke-free-housing>.

Lincoln County Public Health, in collaboration with our community partners, provides leadership to assure the conditions for healthy communities.

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