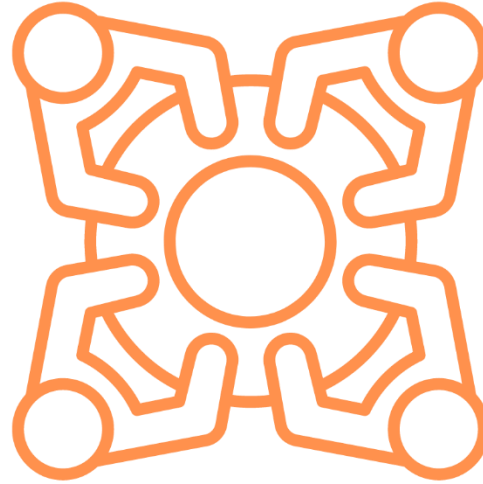


**THIRDHAND SMOKE RESOURCE CENTER  
POLICY ROUNDTABLE SERIES**



**MULTIUNIT HOUSING POLICIES**

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**OCTOBER 21, 2020**

**9:00-10:00AM PDT**

# Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center

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**Mission:** To share **information, resources, and technical support** with California's residents, communities, businesses, health care professionals, and policymakers about the toxic legacy of tobacco smoke residue and to achieve **indoor environments that are 100% free of tobacco smoke toxicants.**



# Partner with us

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Breath of Life Walk 2020 with Breathe CA of the Bay Area

# Agenda

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- 9:00-9:10: Thirdhand smoke, our center, and our policies
- 9:10-9:40: Breakout room discussions
- 9:40-10:00: Regroup

## **GOAL:**

Share challenges, brainstorm together, and receive thirdhand smoke technical assistance

# Thirdhand smoke

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- Thirdhand smoke is the chemical residue left behind on clothes, skin, furniture, walls, and other surfaces **months and years** after smoking stops.
- The gases and particles in thirdhand smoke are toxic to humans, especially children.

# Thirdhand smoke and MUH

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- Since it lasts for years, thirdhand smoke sticks around after tenants move out and new ones move in
- MUH residents are disproportionately exposed to thirdhand smoke
- MUH residents are disproportionately ethnic minorities, sexual minorities, low income, disabled, and/or elderly.



# Our Policy Efforts

**THS** **Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center** @THSResources · Jun 24

We sent a letter to Senator Jerry Hill, in support of Senate Bill 793, making the sale of flavored tobacco or tobacco flavor products illegal in CA. This will help protect youth from the harms of tobacco and the toxic particles that smoke leaves behind.



Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center Supports SB 793 - Thirdhand Smoke...  
The Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center sent a letter to Senator Jerry Hill, 13th Senate District, in support of Senate Bill 793, which would make th...  
[thirdhandsmoke.org](http://thirdhandsmoke.org)

## Another City In San Diego County Bans Smoking In Public Spaces

March 11, 2020 @ Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center

In April, the city of La Mesa, located in San Diego County, will join the growing number of California cities that ban smoking in public places, such as parks, streets, and sidewalks. Smoking bans in public spaces protect all of us from harmful second and thirdhand smoke exposure.

# Policy area: Multiunit housing

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- Disclosure in contracts
- Designate smoke as a nuisance
- Enforcement issues
- Thirdhand smoke aspect: remediation, prevention







# Time to discuss

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## **Discussion questions:**

1. What policy strategies have been particularly effective for your team?
2. What aspects of the policy process have been challenging?
3. What new policy efforts or strategies would you like to try?

## **Guidelines:**

- Introduce yourself and the level of policy you work at (city, county, state, etc.)
- Share your email address in your group's chat
- Designate a leader to keep the discussion on track
- Designate one note taker who will provide your 1-point take-home for each question
- Share materials via Partners

# 2-minute take-homes: Effective Strategies

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- Be flexible and willingness to adapt your strategy based on city's needs
- Enforcement is a legitimate question, but can also be used as an excuse → come up with good enforcement and acknowledge that good laws protect public even though not followed by everyone (e.g., speed limits protect even though some people speed)
- Involve and engage youth 😊 for involvement in advocacy and personal health
- Utilize ALA grades and educational packets when talking with policymakers
- Make arguments based on the idea that properties are small businesses and we are here to help you save money and give better customer service (majority of customers prefer non-smoking)
- Emphasize community *service* aspect and educational aspect
- Education is necessary! Educate on the needs of a smokefree MUH ordinance
- Letters of support and testimonials from community members who experience second- and thirdhand smoke intrusion are particularly convincing. Policymakers care about local data and local interests
- Emphasize that human beings are not commodities and that smokefree housing should not be a privilege that has to be bought
- Rural: in areas with difficult city councils, start by adding an element in **general plan** update. General plan is suggestion, not policy, but lays groundwork for future policy change after the plan "suggestion" has shown promise.
- Do not lead with low smoking rate, as it suggests policy change is unnecessary

# 2-minute take-homes: Challenges

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- Enforcement
- Voluntary policies do not solve the whole problem, but are easier to get adopted.
- Voluntary policies may be used as lawmakers as a reason for not adopting ordinances (i.e., ordinances are not needed)
- Getting in front of councilmembers
- HOAs may not support; issue of homeownership
- “If we make everywhere smokefree, where *can* people smoke” is a legitimate concern
- Addressing business aspect of marijuana (growing, dispensaries)
- Conservative policymakers → “it’s a right” / “privacy”. Maybe counter with “smoke is smoke”?
- When managers are smokers, voluntary policies even harder to pass
- Limited housing, lack of choice for smokefree complexes, especially in rural areas. Not a particularly high priority because the demand for *any* housing is high enough.

# 2-minute take-homes: New ideas

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- General plans is one way to get a foot in the door
- Focus on gathering robust data at the beginning of a campaign
  - Community needs and wants
  - Polls
  - Policymakers care about local data and local opinions
- Action plans and information to answer questions
  - Sharp focus targeted to audiences' (i.e., decision makers) needs
  - Business owners → info on business aspect (etc)
  - Include robust information
- Comment from chat
  - Approaching properties as small businesses is a good, new idea!

# From the Center

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- MUH and Thirdhand Smoke Resource Guidelines:  
<https://thirdhandsmoke.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Resource-Guidelines-Multiunit-Housing-1.pdf>

- Survey:  
[https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6z14umka0PTeXTn](https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6z14umka0PTeXTn)

# November Roundtable

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**Topic:** Outdoor spaces



**When:** Wednesday, November 18, 9am PST

**Registration:** <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/get-involved/work-for-policy-change/>

Direct link: [https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6VZu01QVJhL7yB](https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VZu01QVJhL7yB)

Thank you!

**Contact Information:**

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