2022 REPORT METHODOLOGY

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, publishes an annual report assessing America's 75 largest cities on 12 upstream, prevention-oriented policies that can improve people's access to healthy choices and address critical health disparities in their communities. CityHealth awards gold, silver, bronze, or no medal based on the strength and number of policies that cities have in place.

The report is designed to identify which cities are leading the way on policies shown to improve people's health and quality of life. To see the full results of the assessment, please visit cityhealth.org. Below is a detailed description of the methodology for this report.

Some cities are prevented from adopting CityHealth's policy solutions due to state laws that restrict local authority in certain areas. This practice, known as preemption, is noted for several of the policies below. Additionally, if a higher level of government (such as the county, state, or federal level) passes a law that applies to the local jurisdiction, the city will receive a medal for that policy if it meets CityHealth's criteria.

OVERALL MEDAL STATUS

GOLD

5+

Cities must earn **5 or more gold** medals across the 12 policies

SILVER

5+

Cities must earn **5 or more gold or silver** medals across the 12 policies

BRONZE

5+

Cities must earn **5 or more gold, silver, or bronze** medals across the 12 policies

NO MEDAL

<5

Cities that received **less than 5** medals across the 12 policies were not awarded an overall medal

This research was conducted in partnership with the Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University's Beasley School of Law. Other subject matter experts contributed to the assessment of certain policy areas and are indicated in the sections below.

Affordable Housing Trusts

Affordable Housing Trusts are a community-driven way for cities to invest in building and maintaining affordable housing for everyone. These trusts receive public funding to support the preservation and production of affordable housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access quality affordable homes.

CityHealth's assessment of Affordable Housing Trusts includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. No cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Affordable Housing Trusts policies:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUSTS MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has established an affordable housing trust fund.	✓	✓	✓
2. City policy includes a multi-stakeholder oversight board.	✓	✓	✓
3. City policy identifies or establishes a dedicated revenue source to fund the trust.	✗	✓	✓
4. City policy identifies or establishes a dedicated, recurring revenue source to fund the trust.	✗	✗	✓
5. City policy references affordability levels.	✗	✗	✓
6. City policy requires regular evaluation and public reporting on how trust funds have been spent.	✗	✗	✓

Funding sources may include appropriations, real estate transfer fees, deed and recordation fees, linkage fees, etc.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets policies balance people's needs and safety across all forms of transportation, including walking, biking, public transit, and cars. From street lighting to bike lanes to cross-walks, these policies ensure that all residents have safe, convenient ways of getting around and staying active. All people from all neighborhoods should have access to Complete Streets that help them get where they need to go, live, play, and grow.

CityHealth's assessment of Complete Streets policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. No cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Complete Streets policies:

COMPLETE STREETS MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has a Complete Streets policy.	✓	✓	✓
2. Policy requires compliance.	✓	✓	✓
3. Policy balances pedestrians, bicyclists, and at least two other modes.	✓	✓	✓
4. Policy references the adoption of specific design guidelines, and/or requires the development or revision of internal design policies and guides.	✓	✓	✓
5. Policy explicitly prioritizes vulnerable users.	✓	✓	✓
6. Policy requires compliance of all new construction and reconstruction or retrofit projects.	✗	✓	✓
7. Policy references compliance of all maintenance projects and ongoing operations.	✗	✓	✓
8. Policy assigns a department to oversee implementation.	✗	✗	✓
9. Policy references the development of an inclusive community engagement plan.	✗	✗	✓
10. Policy requires the collection and publication of performance measures, including performance measures that account for equity.	✗	✗	✓
11. Policy includes explicit exemptions.	✗	✗	✓
12. Policy encourages private development projects to comply.	✗	✗	✓
13. Policy establishes a timeline for the review of and improvements to project selection criteria.	✗	✗	✓

Earned Sick Leave

Earned Sick Leave policies require employers to allow employees to take paid time off for illness or injury for themselves or their family members. Done well, these policies can reduce the spread of contagious illnesses, increase employment and income stability, and save cities money in health care costs. Cities that require companies to offer Earned Sick Leave ensure that all employees feel secure in their jobs when they fall ill — and keep communities healthy by stopping the spread of contagious illness.

The minimum amount of Earned Sick Leave time an employee can earn (criteria #3) refers to annual minimums; employees can accrue a minimum of 40 or 48 hours of paid sick time per year, depending on the medal level. Offering a greater amount of time is especially critical for workers with greater health needs, including workers with disabilities or chronic health conditions, new parents, and workers of color.

CityHealth's assessment of Earned Sick Leave policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. Thirty-two cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Earned Sick Leave policies:

EARNED SICK LEAVE MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has an earned sick leave law.	✓	✓	✓
2. Employee can use earned sick leave to care for family members.	✗	✓	✓
3. Employee can use earned sick leave for domestic violence recovery.	✗	✓	✓
4. Minimum amount of earned sick leave time an employee can earn.	✗	✓ ≥ 40 hours	✓ ≥ 48 hours
5. Smallest business size covered under earned sick leave law.	✗	✗	✓ = 1 employee

Eco-Friendly Purchasing

Eco-Friendly Purchasing policies help to limit exposure to toxic chemicals in city-owned buildings. Since cities collectively spend billions of dollars every year purchasing potentially toxic products, prioritizing the city's selection of less harmful products in three categories — cleaning supplies, foodware, and furnishings — means that leaders are able to use the power of city procurement to impact health. When city leaders buy eco-friendly products for city buildings, they make it clear that the health of our communities and our environment is worth protecting.

CityHealth works with the Center for Environmental Health on the assessment of Eco-Friendly Purchasing policies. The assessment includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by September 30, 2022.

How CityHealth measures Eco-Friendly Purchasing policies:

ECO-FRIENDLY PURCHASING MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. The city has an eco-friendly purchasing policy that requires annual reporting.	✓	✓	✓
2. The city has an eco-friendly purchasing policy that meets independent standards for at least one of the following high-priority categories: furnishings, foodware, cleaning products.	✕	✓	✓
3. The city's eco-friendly purchasing policy applies to all requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts.	✕	✕	✓

PRODUCT CATEGORIES

FOODWARE (FSW) Must meet **ALL** of the following performance requirements:

1. Prohibit EPS foam ("Styrofoam") and PFAS in FSW.
2. Prefer reusables.
3. Where reusables are not feasible, prioritize FSW that are recyclable or compostable in local facilities.
4. Use **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)** or **Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA)** certifications to define compostable.
5. Require single-use accessories to be made available only upon request.

CLEANERS & DISINFECTANTS   Must meet **ONE OR MORE** of the following performance requirements:

Green Seal • EcoLogo • US Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice

FURNISHINGS Furniture, carpet, or flooring must meet **ONE OR MORE** of the following performance requirements:

Furniture	• **Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers (BIFMA),**
	    • Criterion 7.4.4 (Targeted Chemical Elimination)
		• **Health Care Without Harm's (HCWH) Healthier Hospitals Healthy Interiors**
		    • **List of companies and products**
		• **GreenScreen Certification for Furniture and Fabric**

Carpet	• **Greenhealth Approved Carpet**	
Flooring	• Greenhealth Approved Resilient Flooring • **SF Approved** • Only for hard-backed carpet tiles and adhesives	

Flavored Tobacco Restrictions

Flavored Tobacco Restrictions policies prohibit all retailers from selling flavored tobacco products — including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes — to protect the health of our communities. Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products can reduce use of these dangerous and addictive products and supports the well-being of everyone — especially young people.

CityHealth's assessment of Flavored Tobacco Restrictions policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. Four cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Flavored Tobacco Restrictions policies:

FLAVORED TOBACCO RESTRICTIONS MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has a flavored tobacco law that prohibits the sale, by all retailers, of at least one category of flavored tobacco products.*	⊘	⊘	⊘
2. The law does not contain any penalties for youth use, purchase, or possession.	⊗	⊘	⊘

NOTES:

* Number of prohibited product categories varies by medal:
- **Bronze:** a city must prohibit the sale of at least one product category
- **Silver:** a city must prohibit the sale of at least two product categories
- **Gold:** a city must prohibit the sale of all three product categories

Product categories:
- Menthol cigarettes
- All flavored e-cigarettes and vaping devices
- All 'Other Tobacco Products' to include cigars, cigarillos, dipping tobacco, snuff, chew, hookah, etc.

Greenspace

Public greenspaces, from parks to trails to public commons, help families be healthier in body and mind and keep our environment thriving. Greenspace policies can expand equitable access to parks, increase tree canopy, and reduce pollution. These policies ensure all families, not just a few, have access to public land, nature, and their benefits.

CityHealth works with the Trust for Public Land on the assessment of city Greenspace policies. The assessment includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by September 30, 2022. No cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Greenspace policies:

GREENSPACE MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. The city council has adopted or ratified a policy or formalized planning goal either to: A) Achieve 100% park access access within a 10-minute walk for all residents by 2040, or B) Increase tree canopy coverage, with a specific measurable goal and time frame.	✓	✓	✓
2. The city's public spending on parks and greenspace is at or above the national median per capita, and the city maintains that level of spending within $10.*	✗	✓	✓
3. Either the city's 10-minute walk policy or its tree canopy goal clearly prioritizes underserved and disinvested neighborhoods, based on racial and/or economic equity, and/or data-driven park need.	✗	✗	✓

*The public funding data used for the Greenspace medals do not include programmatic investments. These measures are adjusted for local cost of living and inflation. These funding data are derived from the annual City Park Facts survey conducted by the Trust for Public Land.

Healthy Food Purchasing

Healthy Food Purchasing policies set standards for the food available for purchase on city property. These policies can help ensure that healthy food options are available in city-owned or controlled places and give city residents food choices that can help them achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Cities that prioritize health in their food purchases increase access to healthy choices — and can use their purchasing power to lead by example.

CityHealth's assessment of Healthy Food Purchasing policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. No cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Healthy Food Purchasing policies:

HEALTHY FOOD PURCHASING MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has a procurement policy mandating nutrition standards.	✓	✓	✓
2. City procurement policy applies to one or more venues where food is sold or served on city property or by a city agency or city contractor. The policy may apply only to vending machines.	✓	✓	✓
3. City has a procurement policy mandating nutrition standards at least as strong as the Foodservice Guidelines for Federal Facilities.	✗	✓	✓
4. City procurement policy applies to EITHER: 　• All venues where food is sold on city property OR 　• All venues where food is purchased with city funds and/or served by city agencies, contractors, or subcontractors.	✗	✓	✓
5. City has a procurement policy mandating nutrition standards at least as strong as the Foodservice Guidelines for Federal Facilities (innovative level).	✗	✗	✓
6. City procurement policy applies to all venues where food is sold or served on city property or by city agencies, contractors, or subcontractors, or purchased with city funds.	✗	✗	✓

NOTE: Permissible Exemptions:

1. Prior dated contracts
2. Contracts under a certain threshold amount ($10,000)
3. Airports

Healthy Rental Housing

Health Rental Housing policies — also known as "proactive rental inspection" policies — have a strong evidence base that shows the link between potential health harms within rental properties and the ability to proactively inspect and remediate these harms. These policies can help detect life-threatening toxins, like mold and asbestos, and have a strong upstream prevention focus that could prevent poor health problems before they start.

CityHealth's assessment of Healthy Rental Housing policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. Eleven cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Healthy Rental Housing policies:

HEALTHY RENTAL HOUSING MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has a policy that requires at least biennial (once every two years) rental registration of buildings with three or more units for all property types. Certain exemptions may be allowed including, but not limited to, when the unit is vacant, a family member is living there but not on the deed, units where rent is not collected, and if the owner occupies one of the units.	✓	✓	✓
2. City policy requires routine, periodic inspections conducted at least every 10 years.	✗	✓	✗
3. City policy requires inspection of the property exterior.	✗	✓	✗
4. City policy requires advanced notice of inspection to be given to the landlord or the tenant.	✗	✓	✓
5. City policy requires routine, periodic inspections to be conducted at least every five years.	✗	✗	✓
6. City policy requires inspection of property exteriors and interiors when there is an exterior violation.	✗	✗	✓
7. City policy requires landlords to pay registration or inspection fees.	✗	✗	✓
8. City policy requires an evaluation or reporting requirement.	✗	✗	✓

High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K

Done right, all children benefit from early childhood education, regardless of family income or zip code. CityHealth's assessment of High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K programs evaluates 10 quality benchmarks established by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), which include measures around quality, access, local funding, and data collection. When all families have access to high-quality pre-K, more children have the opportunity to succeed as they begin their educational journeys.

In partnership with NIEER, data are collected by examining public online records including websites; documents such as program guidelines and legislation; NIEER's annual yearbook; interviews with city and/or state pre-K administrators; and any external program evaluations if available as a public record. Quality and enrollment data come from the school year preceding the assessment.

Due to the structure and governance of most High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K programs, state-level preemption is generally not a factor in a program's adoption. For this reason, CityHealth does not collect preemption data for this policy.

How CityHealth measures High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K programs:

HIGH-QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE PRE-K MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. Policy meets 2 out of 3 criteria* (access, local funding, and equity data) and meets at least 4 NIEER quality benchmarks.**	✓	✓	✓
2. Policy meets 8 out of 10 NIEER quality benchmarks.	✗	✓	✓
3. Policy meets 9 out of 10 NIEER quality benchmarks.	✗	✗	✓

*CRITERIA INCLUDE:

- **Access:** Establishes a 30% access threshold for pre-K programs. Quality learning can only make an impact if children have access to the programming.
- **Equity Data:** City collects demographic data that allow local leaders and residents see who in their community is receiving services.
- **Local Funding:** Local funding is included in a city's pre-K program. Pre-K programs with a local funding source often mean that cities have a stake in the quality, access, and equitable delivery of their pre-K programs.

**NIEER's Pre-K Quality Policy Benchmarks can be found on the next page.

NIEER PRE-K QUALITY POLICY BENCHMARKS

Policy Benchmark	Description	Why It Matters
Learning goals	Comprehensive early learning and development standards to guide teaching and assessment	Programs need clear and appropriate goals explaining what children are expected to know and be able to do when they complete Pre-K.
Curriculum supports	Guidance for choosing and using content-rich curriculum	Programs should use curricula designed for young learners that focus on language, literacy, mathematics, science, and social-emotional development.
Teacher education level	Lead teachers required to have a bachelor's degree	Teachers with higher education levels generally provide higher quality learning environments for children.
Teacher specialized training	Lead teacher has specialized training for teaching Pre-K	Teachers need to understand how to teach young children in ways that are consistent with a child's learning and development.
Assistant teacher education	Assistant teacher has a formalized entry-level credential such as the Child Development Associates degree	All members of a teaching team influence classroom quality, so assistants should hold at least an entry-level qualification for teaching young children.
Professional development	Ongoing training for teachers and assistant teachers	Professional learning, including coaching and other classroom support, produces high-quality learning experiences for children.
Maximum class size	Maximum number of children per classroom is 20	Effective Pre-K programs have small classes, enabling teachers to understand and address each child's interests, needs, and capabilities.
Teacher-child ratio	Ratio of teachers to children is 1:10 or better	Working with small groups of children allows teachers to offer more individualized attention, which results in better outcomes.
Health screening and referral	Screenings for vision, hearing, health, and development concerns, along with referrals to needed services	Screening for health and development issues helps children get the help they need and often prevents later, costly services.
Continuous quality improvement system	System to assess program quality used to guide improvement	Using data to inform program improvement helps educators provide the high-quality early learning opportunities children need.

Legal Support for Renters

Renters have legal protections, but few can access those protections when faced with eviction because most don't have the means to obtain legal representation. Legal Support for Renters policies ensure all eligible tenants have access to full legal representation, which substantially improves the likelihood that residents will stay in their homes; or, if they must move, that they will have more time to find new housing and decrease the risk of homelessness. These policies also help renters keep their records free from evictions and can help reduce rent debt.

CityHealth's assessment of Legal Support for Renters policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. No cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Legal Support for Renters policies:

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR RENTERS MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. City has a legal support policy that provides full legal representation for all eligible tenants.*	✓	✓	✓
2. Policy includes limited coverage.**	✓	✗	✗
3. Policy includes both limited coverage and enhanced coverage.***	✗	✓	✓
4. Policy requires evaluation.	✗	✓	✓
5. Policy requires evaluation and reporting.	✗	✗	✓

*Eligible tenants vary by medal:

- Bronze: The policy must cover any tenant with at least one child making no more than 125% of the federal poverty level.

- Silver: The policy must cover any tenant making no more than 200% of the federal poverty level OR policy provides a flexible standard of indigence encouraging broad applicability and vests providers with discretion to determine indigence.

- Gold: The policy must cover all tenants.

**Limited coverage: Includes representation for evictions only.

***Enhanced coverage: Includes representation for eviction and some proceedings functionally equivalent to eviction, such as subsidy terminations.

Safer Alcohol Sales

When communities have smart policies and practices around alcohol sales, it helps keep everyone safer — and physically and mentally healthier — by reducing excessive drinking and related violence. Safer Alcohol Sales policies put cities in charge of the location and practices of alcohol retailers. These policies that govern where, when, and how alcohol may be sold in a neighborhood can reduce crime, increase safety, and decrease spending on health care and criminal justice.

In partnership with Ryan Treffers, a legal policy and research consultant, CityHealth's assessment of Safer Alcohol Sales policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by September 1, 2022. Every state varies in how much authority it grants local government to regulate alcohol. Some allow a lot of local regulation while others none. For the Safer Alcohol Sales policy, state preemption may dictate what medal may be awarded (or even one at all). For detailed information on preemption and local alcohol regulation, please see the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth.
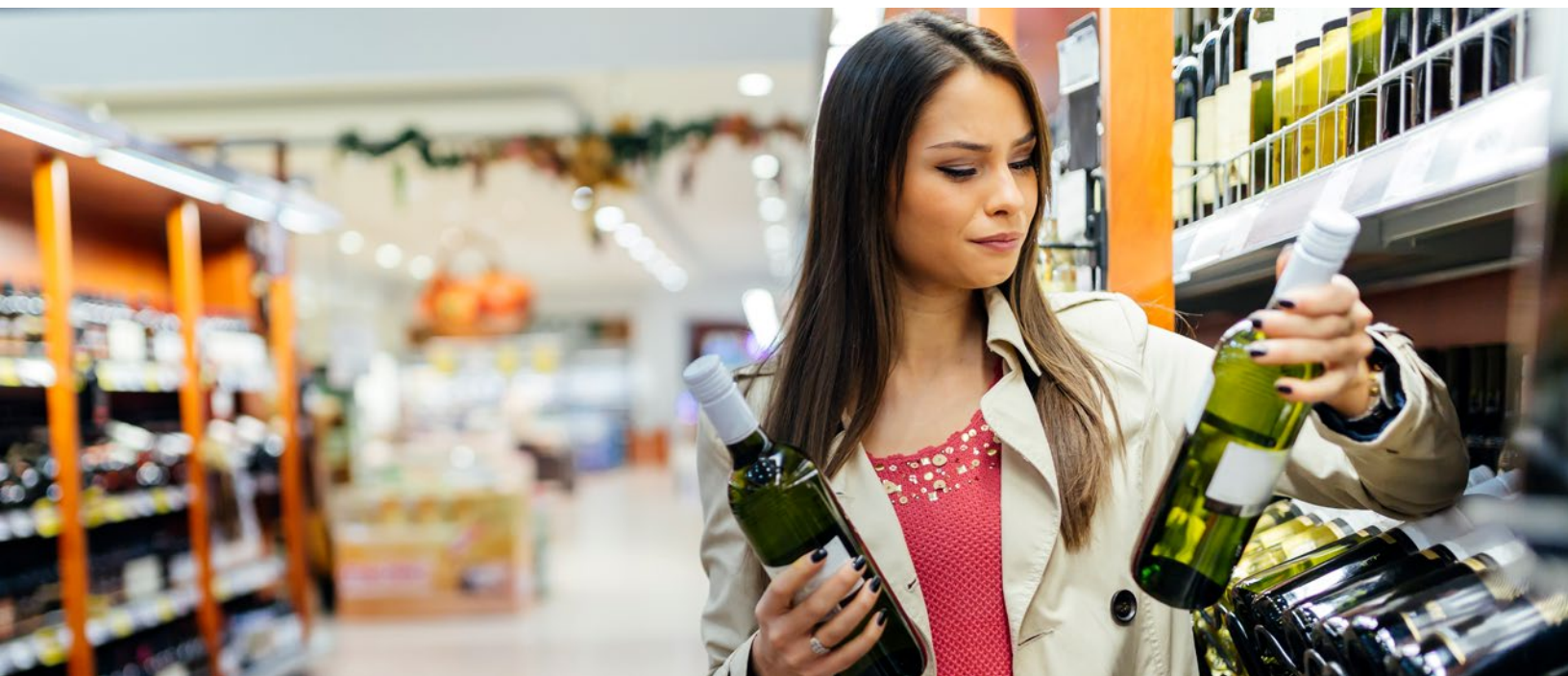
How CityHealth measures Safer Alcohol Sales policies:

SAFER ALCOHOL SALES MEDAL CRITERIA	Silver	Gold
1. City has a law that applies to some alcohol sales (such as only new retailers, or only retailers selling for off-premises consumption including grocery or convenience stores), addresses public health and safety, and authorizes the city to close an alcohol retailer for failing to comply with the law.	⊘	⊗
2. City has a law that applies to all alcohol sales, addresses public health and safety, and authorizes the city to close an alcohol retailer for failing to comply with the law.	⊗	⊘

NOTE: Safer Alcohol Sales only has gold and silver medal criteria.

Smoke-Free Indoor Air

Cities can put health first by ensuring that businesses and other indoor spaces remain free from the smoke and vapor from tobacco (including e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products) and cannabis. Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of tobacco and reduce smokers' consumption of tobacco at the same time. Casinos, gaming venues, multi-unit housing, and bars — or any other public space we enjoy with family and friends — should have clean air to protect everyone's health.

CityHealth's assessment of Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies includes information about city-specific laws, along with relevant county- and state-level laws passed by July 1, 2022. Eleven cities were preempted.

How CityHealth measures Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies:

SMOKE-FREE INDOOR AIR MEDAL CRITERIA	Bronze	Silver	Gold
1. Smoking is prohibited in non-hospitality workplaces, including nursing home facilities' common spaces and childcare facilities; in restaurants and bars; and in public places.	⊘	⊘	⊘
2. Smoking or vaping tobacco, including e-cigarettes and other heated tobacco products, is banned in non-hospitality workplaces, including nursing home facilities' common spaces and childcare facilities; in restaurants and bars; and in public places.	⊗	⊘	⊘
3. Bans in one of the following: casinos and gaming industry venues; multi-unit housing containing more than three units; marijuana; or private rooms in nursing home facilities.	⊗	⊗	⊘