



## Senior Housing Weekly

July 9, 2021

**Monday, July 12, Housing Advisory Group Call.** Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On July 12, we'll discuss HUD communications and processes related to rent increase requests and other operations; we'll also discuss disaster preparedness updates following Tropical Storm Elsa. On July 19, we'll host a conversion on RAD for PRAC, with several LeadingAge members lined up as guest speakers. Advance questions welcome. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

**Coronavirus Update Calls For Next Week.** Join us on Monday, July 12, for an informative discussion on COVID-19 vaccination issues and barriers for frontline domestic workers. Judy Rebert from the National Domestic Workers Alliance will share their latest survey research and provide tips and examples to help educate and encourage staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The Delta variant of the coronavirus is taking hold across the country and the globe and LeadingAge members are wondering what this means for the months ahead. On Wednesday, July 14, Dr. Ghinwa Dumyati from the University of Rochester will talk with us about the new variant and what LeadingAge members can do to protect staff and residents as this new variant spreads. We host the calls on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30pm ET; if you haven't registered for the calls, you can [join us here](#).

**President Commits to Housing in Infrastructure Package.** In a July 7 speech, President Biden committed to including affordable housing investments in the infrastructure package enacted via reconciliation. "We need to deal with the shortage of affordable housing in America. Over 10 million renters in this country pay more than half their income for the rent on their apartment, and the lack of affordable housing prevents people from moving to communities where there are more opportunities," President Biden said. "So we're going to make historic investment in affordable housing, increasing and improving the housing supply by building and rehabilitating more than 2 million homes, especially in places that need more housing." Read more in this [article](#).

**Appropriations Heats Up.** The House Appropriations Committee will mark up its fiscal year 2021 Transportation-HUD (THUD) appropriations bill on July 12 and in full committee on July 16. Any aging services stakeholders with U.S. Representatives on the THUD subcommittee or on the full committee are encouraged to contact them and urge support for LeadingAge's [policy priorities for FY22 HUD funding](#). You can find the members of the THUD subcommittee [here](#) and full committee members [here](#).

**GAO Urges More Comprehensive REAC Changes.** On July 6, the Government Accountability Office released its updated list of priority recommendations for HUD. These are issues that "warrant priority attention" from heads of key departments or agencies because their implementation could save large amounts of money; improve congressional and/or executive branch decision-making on major issues; eliminate mismanagement, fraud, and abuse; or ensure that programs comply with laws and funds are legally spent, among other benefits. Read more in this [article](#).

**Tenant Empowerment Act Introduced.** Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) has introduced the Tenant Empowerment Act of 2020. The bill is cosponsored by House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI). The bill allows for escrowing of tenant rent payments and a “repair and deduct” rent policy for tenants, expanded roles for tenants in the physical inspection and management oversight processes, gives tenants a private right of action, and expands the type of building information available to tenants. LeadingAge has been working with the bill’s cosponsors for years on the legislation and understands revisions are expected before the bill advances. Read an article [here](#).

**Eviction Protection Resources.** The national moratorium on evictions for nonpayment of rent will expire on July 31. The Treasury Department’s Emergency Rental Assistance program allows local programs to cover rent, utilities, and home energy costs. This includes electricity, gas, fuel oil, water and sewer, and trash removal. If a landlord normally pays for utilities or home energy costs, these are counted as part of someone’s rent. The emergency rental assistance may, depending on the local area, also cover reasonable late fees (if not included in rental or utility debt), internet service, moving expenses and other rental-related fees (such as security deposits, application fees, or screening fees) for families who have to move, housing counseling, case management, legal representation, and other housing stability services. Find a local Emergency Rental Assistance program by [the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s ERA Program finder](#) or [this database from the National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) database of programs.

**State by State Face Mask Mandates – 9 states still have them in place.** The latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allows people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to forgo masks in most public settings, indoors and out. Several States have modified their mask mandates to align with the federal guidelines while others have relaxed rules in most settings. Nine state governments require people to wear face coverings in most indoor public settings to curb the spread of COVID-19. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have mask orders in place. To date, 30 states that had mask orders covering the general public have mostly lifted them. Eleven states did not impose mask mandates at any point during the pandemic. [Here’s where each state](#) stands on the use of face masks, as of July 8, 2021.

**2022 Larry Minnix Leadership Academy.** Apply now for LeadingAge’s Larry Minnix Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy will help you develop your leadership capacities and core competencies by tapping into your natural talents and authentic leadership style. Applications are due July 26, 2021. Learn [more](#).