



Senior Housing Weekly

April 15, 2022

LeadingAge Housing Network Call. Join us on Monday, April 18, at 12:30pm ET for our regular Housing Network call. We'll discuss HUD's recent efforts on criminal background screenings, and we'll review LeadingAge on Service Coordinator grants payments. We'll also share the results of our quarterly affordable housing survey. Any LeadingAge member can join the Housing Network or submit advance questions by emailing Linda (lcouch@leadingage.org) or Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls Next Week. The pandemic has changed caregiving in many ways but one area that has been overlooked is the effects it has had on older adults who are caregivers. During the pandemic older adults became primary caregivers for children out of school and cared for sick family members and this shaped caregiving across the country and had an impact on the workforce. On **Monday, April 18th**, we will be joined by **Dr. Yulya Truskinovsky from Wayne State University**, one of the leading authors of the study highlight the changes that have occurred with older adult caregivers leaving the workforce and the demands that caregiving has had on this age group. She will talk about how LeadingAge members can support older caregivers and provide some tips for how to recruit some of these older caregivers to be paid caregivers for older adults. On **Wednesday, April 20th**, we will talk with LeadingAge member Cheryl Harding, President and CEO of the James L. West Dementia Center in Texas as she shares the organization's pivots during this last phase of COVID and how they are working with local high schools to educate students about the Center and the career opportunities that exist. **All calls are at 3:30pm ET.** If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#).

HUD, HHS present Federal Equity Action Plans. The Biden Administration this week [announced](#) the next steps in its strategy to improve diversity and advance racial and gender equity across the federal government. President Biden signed an [executive order](#) on his first day in office aimed at advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government. At the event this week, more than 90 federal agencies – including [HHS](#), [HUD](#), and [DOJ](#) -- released their first-ever Equity Action Plans, outlining more than 300 strategies and commitments to implement the President's executive order and address the systemic barriers across our nation's policies and programs. The Administration recognizes that this is not a one-year project, but a generational commitment. HUD Secretary Fudge reviewed the agency's recently-released HUD Equity Action Plan, which emphasizes equitable home ownership and access to homelessness services. HHS Secretary Becerra emphasized efforts to reduce infant mortality for Black and Native American enrollees in Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program; Becerra also discussed outreach to communities of color to encourage enrollment in free and low-cost health care. LeadingAge will continue working with HUD, HHS, and other agencies to advance equitable aging across America. More information will be available [here](#).

HUD to Review, Adjust Criminal Background Screening Policies. On April 12, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge sent a memo to agency staff instituting a HUD-wide effort to review programs and increase inclusivity of individuals with criminal histories. In the memo, Secretary Fudge directed all relevant HUD offices, including the Office of Housing, to identify all existing HUD regulations, guidance documents, and other policies that may pose barriers to housing people with criminal histories. This review includes regulatory and sub-regulatory documents like model leases and other agreements. By October 14, 2022, HUD offices are directed to propose updates and amendments to agency documents and guidance to make HUD programs as inclusive as possible. LeadingAge will work with our housing

provider members to provide feedback to the agency as HUD offices undergo their review in the coming 6 months. More info is available [here](#).

HUD Expects Delays on Service Coordinator Grant Funds; Partial Relief Available. Like last year, HUD is projecting Service Coordinator grant funding to be many months delayed, with award notices expected no earlier than June and payments to grantees expected in July or August. The Service Coordinator grant performance year runs on the Calendar Year, and delays until halfway through the year leave housing providers covering the costs of vital Service Coordination programming in the meantime. LeadingAge is working with various HUD Multifamily Regions to provide expedited access to Reserve accounts to cover the costs until the grant funds are paid. So far, the parts of the Midwest and Northeast Regions have sent announcements to grantees outlining a streamlined reserve release request option with a pre-set amount calculation and repayment deadline. All grantees are encouraged to reach out to their HUD counterparts to inquire about available assistance. LeadingAge will continue to work with HUD at the regional and headquarter level to manage the challenges resulting from the delays and to implement longer-term solutions to avoid future delays. For assistance accessing reserves or other remedies in the meantime, reach out to Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

RAD in the Budget: HUD Makes Improvements to Key Housing Preservation Tool. Expanding, preserving, and improving the supply of affordable and accessible senior housing is LeadingAge's top priority. Many LeadingAge members have utilized HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) to convert and preserve affordable senior housing properties. Through the annual appropriations process, Congress and HUD are working on a number of improvements to the program to make the preservation tool more feasible for Section 202 PRAC (and Section 811 PRAC) properties. LeadingAge strongly supports improvements to RAD for 202 and 811 PRACs, as well as RAD for Public Housing. More information is available [here](#).

HUD Announces Key Staff Appointments. HUD has announced key additions to the agency staff, including Adjoa B. Asamoah, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity in the Office of the Secretary and Ruth Jones Nichols, Senior Advisor for Public Engagement, Office of Public Affairs. HUD also welcomes all ten Regional Administrators, which had been previously announced by the White House. In addition to newly appointed staff throughout the agency, HUD has also new roles for certain key staff, including Sarah Brundage, Senior Advisor for Housing Supply and Infrastructure, Office of the Secretary (previously General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations). LeadingAge continues to work with HUD leadership to advance Senior Housing priorities. More information is available [here](#).

Reminder: HUD Offers Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Multifamily Housing Course. Reminder to register for the HUD-supported StopPests in Housing Program's live online course for housing professionals. The course will be offered Thursdays, April 21st - May 12th, 2022. There is no charge for this course. The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Multifamily Housing Course was designed to help housing professionals understand their roles in supporting safe and effective pest control in their communities. More information is available [here](#).

Public Health Emergency (PHE) Extension. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Tuesday [renewed the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(PHE\)](#) for another three months. The PHE was initially declared in January 2020 and has been subsequently renewed each quarter. Although the PHE was due to expire on April 16, [HHS announced the renewal](#) for an additional 90 days and said that it will give states at least 60-days' notice prior to its termination. The renewal will result in a continued expansion of telehealth services, state support, and Medicaid coverage protections through mid-July.

Poll Finds, Despite Preference, Older Adults Unprepared to Age at Home. The National Poll on Healthy Aging [released](#) this week found that many people in their 50s, 60s, and 70s need to do more to modify their homes

or plan for services they may need to age in place. The vast majority of people over 50 say they would like to live in the current homes as long as possible. But this poll finds many will have a hard time paying for in-home help. Of those who live alone, 48% said they don't have someone to help with personal care and 19% of older adults are confident they could pay for such help.

Recap of Dr. Paul Reinbold on 4th shots: Dr. Paul Reinbold, Chief Medical Officer for Acts and member of the LeadingAge Clinical Advisory Group joined our call on April 13th to discuss 4th shots, therapeutics, and more. A recap of his conversation with us can be found [here](#).

Expert Insight: Dr. Caitlin Coyle, Ph.D. Dr. Coyle spoke on our April 11th call on social isolation and loneliness, before and after the COVID Pandemic. Dr. Coyle leads an instrumental task force through U. Mass. Boston on addressing this issue with older adults in Massachusetts. You can read the summary transcript from our conversation with her [here](#).