



Senior Housing Weekly

May 6, 2022

LeadingAge Housing Network Call. Join us on Monday, May 9, at 12:30pm ET for our regular Housing Network call. It's Mental Health Awareness Month! Each Monday this month, we'll do a special check-in on mental health at federally-subsidized properties. This Monday, we'll also discuss general updates from HUD, including HUD's recent announcement of the CSP deadline extension for capital projects; we'll also check in on changes coming to the RAD for PRAC preservation tool for senior housing ahead of a LeadingAge meeting with HUD. If time allows, we'll also review our draft feedback to HUD on the agency's proposed Rent Comparability Study changes that will impact support for resident services in Section 8 rents. Any LeadingAge member can join the Housing Network or submit advance questions by emailing Linda (lcouch@leadingage.org) or Juliana (ibilowich@leadingage.org).

LeadingAge COVID-19 Update Call on Monday, May 9. How has the pandemic changed the way consumers approach aging services? How are providers adapting to pandemic related changes and adjusting to the new market? On **Monday, May 9 at 3:30**, we will talk with **Katelyn McCauley**, Director of Senior Living Research at Hollaran Community Engagement Research and Consulting about their latest community engagement studies and answer your questions on how the aging services market is evolving. . If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other "members only" content.

HUD Extends CSP Capital Project Completion Deadline. In response to advocacy by LeadingAge and other housing stakeholders, HUD has extended the deadline to complete capital projects eligible for fourth round COVID-19 Supplemental Payments to August 30, 2022. The deadline extension will help affordable senior housing providers complete installation of internet infrastructure, back-up generators, and indoor air system upgrades throughout the portfolio. The deadline extension applies only to owners who received notification of conditionally approved CSP amounts for *Category B: Eligible Capital Expenses* in response to a CSP request submitted in November 2021. Impacted owners do not need to take any further action to request the extended time to complete equipment installation; the new August 30, 2022, deadline will automatically apply. HUD anticipates sharing the DocuSign method for certifying capital project completion within the coming weeks. Following project completion by August 30, the deadline to submit certification of completion is now September 7, 2022, though properties are encouraged to submit as soon as they are able. More information will be available [here](#).

LeadingAge Hosts Call on HUD's Proposed Changes to Rent Comp Studies. Thanks to all who joined LeadingAge's Housing policy team for our special call this week on HUD's proposed changes to the Section 8 Renewal Guide. We reviewed the proposed revisions and crafted LeadingAge's draft response to [HUD's proposed revisions to Rent Comparability Studies](#), including the agency's continued investment through rents in services at senior properties; stay tuned for LeadingAge's final comments to HUD. **You can still submit feedback before HUD's May 23rd deadline!** To submit feedback or learn more about

how the proposed revisions will impacts services and other components of your Section 8 rents, email Juliana Bilowich (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

HUD Announces Upcoming Asset Building Webinars With CFPB. HUD and the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced two upcoming webinars to help HUD-assisted residents build assets, increase financial wellbeing, and develop positive credit histories.

- **Asset Building Opportunities for HUD-Assisted Tenants: Tuesday, May 10, 2-3pm ET**
This joint webinar by HUD and the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) explore strategies to help HUD-assisted residents build assets and increase financial well-being. An asset is a resource with economic value that a person owns that appreciates in value over time (e.g., savings, house, higher education). Assets help families weather financial shocks, achieve long-term financial goals, and build confidence and hope for a better future. More specifically, topics covered will include how to support residents grow savings, build credit, access financial coaching, and more.
Join the Webinar [Here](#).
Webinar number: 2760 849 9457
Webinar password: KbnJzUPA?782 (52659872 from phones)
Join by phone: +14043971590 US Toll
Access code: 276 084 99457

Webinar Speakers:

- Peggy Bailey, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Senior Advisor for Rental Assistance
 - Dave Sieminski, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 - Zach Gordon, Cambridge Housing Authority
- **Rent Reporting and Credit Building Opportunities for HUD-Assisted Residents: Tuesday, June 7, 2-3pm ET**
This joint webinar by HUD, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Credit Builders Alliance webinar will discuss strategies to help HUD-assisted residents build positive credit histories. A 2019 HUD study of three public housing agencies found that more than half of the adult residents likely lacked a credit score or had a bad credit score, while the majority likely did not have a bank account. Without a positive credit history, these residents potentially face higher costs for borrowing money and barriers to housing and employment. The webinar will explore tools and resources you can use to start credit building programs and educate residents about credit topics. The Housing Authority of Clackamas County, Oregon will also share firsthand experience implementing rent reporting.
Join the Webinar [Here](#).
Webinar number: 2763 015 8560
Webinar password: 2SThfN6Zmj\$2 (27843669 from phones)
Join by phone: +14043971590 US Toll
Access code: 2763 015 8560

Webinar Speakers:

- Todd Richardson, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Research and Development
- Irene Skricki, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- Mary Jo Halder, Credit Builders Alliance
- Jemila Hart, Housing Authority of Clackamas County

USDA's Rural Development Multifamily Housing team announces next quarterly call, highlights internet discount program. Join USDA Rural Development Multifamily Housing (MFH) leadership to receive updates on MFH programs. USDA Rural Development MFH Field Operations staff hold these quarterly to provide updates to stakeholders. To join for this meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET, click here: [Multifamily Housing Partnership Updates – Live Meeting](#). During the meeting, USDA staff will also discuss their partnership with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in marketing the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP helps individuals pay their monthly internet bill by offering an internet service discount of up to \$30.00 to qualifying households. Because the ACP could benefit many MFH residents, Rural Development is encouraging housing providers to post the [ACP Fact Sheet](#) in a public place at each property.

Updated FDA Prescribing Guidelines for Paxlovid. Today the FDA released a checklist to make screening potential patients for Paxlovid and a detailed list of drugs with potential interactions. Paxlovid was released in December but logistical challenges have made it difficult for some individuals to access. People who can benefit from Paxlovid must start the drug within five days after the onset of COVID symptoms. The Administration has said they are working on other initiatives that would increase the number of pharmacies that carry Paxlovid.

ACL Plans to Fund a Direct Care Workforce Center. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has announced a new funding opportunity to address the direct care workforce (DCW) crisis by establishing a new, "Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Initiative" that will fund one five-year cooperative agreement to create and maintain a National Technical Assistance Center. Estimated total funding will be \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million, per year for the five-year project period. You can view the grant opportunity here: [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#). Grant Applications are due: June 28, 2022, 11:59 pm ET. An "Informational Teleconference for Interested Applicants" will be held on Tuesday, May 17 at 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET: Number: 888-942-9712; Participant passcode: 5313288. Letters of intent (optional) due: May 31, 2022. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit entities, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations as well as institutions of higher education. When fully operational, the ACL envisions the technical assistance center will become a central hub for state, private, and federal entities involved in the hiring and workforce development associated with the delivery of HCBS to access a curated array of model policies, best practices, training materials, technical assistance and learning collaboratives. [Here](#) is an article with additional details.

Discussion with Dr. Michael Mina about the COVID-19 Roadmap. If you missed our interview today with Michael Mina, a lead author of the [COVID-19 Roadmap](#), you can read a summary of it [here](#). The goal and purpose was to lay out how the country can enter the new normal stage of the pandemic and manage the virus without eliminating it. "We can't get to the next normal until we get the worst of the

current situation under control,” he told callers. Dr. Mina thinks we are moving too quickly but at the same time said it is “okay to have a little respite.” He particularly said we should be ready for a “new big wave” in the Southeast and another large wave in the Fall in the Northeast. He reiterated what we all know – everyone is safer outdoors, particularly when air conditioning is being used inside. Dr. Mina offered an assessment that if another pandemic happened now we are not in a better place, and may even be at greater disadvantage. However, he pointed out unambiguously that aging services providers know a lot more from their pandemic experience and are in a good place to keep up the leadership. “Heroes rise up when they are needed,” he added.

Strategies to Increase Access to PACE: The National Association for State Health Policy (NASHP) convened the NASHP State PACE Action Network to support the work of PACE expansion, beginning with a focus on five states: Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. This [webinar](#), being held on May 10th from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern, will highlight efforts in Massachusetts to improve its PACE enrollment process and Maryland’s approach to its process for selecting and onboarding new PACE organizations, including those in rural areas. Speakers from each state will share information on their state activities, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Long COVID Risk Factors: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse [released](#) a story that researchers studied samples from COVID-19 patients over time, which led to many insights, including some of the risk factors for Long COVID. The researchers enrolled 209 people ages 18 to 89 who had laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infections. The participants’ COVID-19 experiences ranged from having mild symptoms and never having to be hospitalized to needing mechanical ventilation in the intensive care unit. With the participants’ consent, researchers studied their electronic health records, interviewed them about their symptoms, and took blood samples. All participants were asked to come back 60 and 90 days after their initial COVID-19 symptoms started. The researchers compared the 209 patients with people who had not had COVID-19 and checked their findings against a separate group of 100 people who had COVID-19 and were 60 to 90 days beyond developing their initial symptoms. Three months after being diagnosed with COVID-19, half of the 209 participants reported fatigue. A quarter of them had a cough, and 18% had loss of smell or taste.

The researchers found that people were more likely to have symptoms 2 to 3 months after diagnosis if they had any of several risk factors at the time they were diagnosed, including:

- Type 2 diabetes
- Reactivated [Epstein-Barr virus](#) in their blood. Many people are infected with this virus in childhood. After infection, the virus persists in the body in an inactive form but may reactivate.
- Autoantibodies. While antibodies should bind only to materials from outside the body, some people make antibodies against their own tissues. The researchers checked for a few different autoantibodies.

The researchers also made other observations. For example, people who had cold-like symptoms at 3 months also had low levels of the hormone cortisol. These risk factors are only part of the picture, the researchers noted — a person's genetics likely also play a factor in their Long COVID risk.