



## Senior Housing Weekly

March 18, 2022

**LeadingAge Housing Network Call.** Join us on Monday, March 21, at 12:30pm ET, for our weekly Housing Network call. *(Something seem different? Yes! We've changed the name of this group from the Housing Advisory Group to the Housing Network!)* On March 21, we'll provide the latest updates from HUD and the Hill, and hear from members. Any LeadingAge member can join the Housing Network or submit advance questions by emailing Linda ([lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org)) or Juliana ([jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org)). Read more about all LeadingAge member groups [here](#).

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls.** On Monday, March 21, we'll talk with Ron Hetrick about his report, *Demographic Drought: How the Approaching Sansdemc Will Transform the Labor Market for the Rest of Our Lives.* He'll discuss recent demographic trends affecting the workforce and how this shifting labor environment affects aging services providers. On Wednesday, March 23, we'll welcome back "your local epidemiologist" Dr. Katelyn Jetelina to talk about continued COVID risks as we open up and begin the endemic stage of the pandemic. She will help us decipher the current trends surrounding transmission and risk and describe how LeadingAge members can communicate with residents and staff about the ongoing risks of COVID-19. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#).

**LeadingAge Quarterly Affordable Housing Survey.** It's time for our first quarterly affordable housing survey of 2022! Please fill out [this 5-minute survey](#) on key housing issues, including HUD COVID relief payments. The information you provide advances our advocacy efforts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Congress, it helps us understand the materials that our housing members need, and gives you insights about your housing peers. Please [complete the survey by Friday, March 25](#).

### Coming to the 2022 LeadingAge Leadership Summit?

- Affordable housing providers (and others!) coming to the Leadership Summit are encouraged to join Linda and Juliana for some informal networking during the Monday, March 28, 5- 6:30pm, Welcome Reception. Look for us there!
- **VOANS March 27 Health & Housing Symposium.** Volunteers of America National Services (VOANS) is hosting a 2022 Health & Housing Symposium on Sunday, March 27, 2:30 - 5pm, followed by a networking reception from 5 – 6pm. This Symposium is directly before the March 28 start of the 2022 LeadingAge Leadership Summit. The [VOANS Health & Housing Symposium](#) will include keynotes from Richard Cho, Senior Advisor for Housing and Services, HUD, and Alison Barkoff, Principal Deputy Administrator, Administration for Community Living, HHS. There are also two panel discussions: "Building Sustainable Opportunities to Address Health & LTSS Needs," and "Investments, Partnerships & Strategies to Support Service Delivery." The event is in partnership with LeadingAge and presented by Parker Health Group, Inc. This in-person, free event will be at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. [Click here to register for this free March 27 Symposium](#). A Symposium flyer, including the registration link, is [here](#). Click [here](#) for more information on the 2022 LeadingAge Leadership Summit.

**HUD Secretary Visits AHEPA Housing in Houston.** On March 14, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge visited the AHEPA 29 Senior Apartments campus in Houston, one of LeadingAge member AHEPA Management Company's many affordable senior housing communities. "Little means more to me than taking care of the generation that took care of us. Ensuring our seniors have access to affordable, decent, and safe housing is paramount. And I made sure the residents of AHEPA Senior Housing in Houston knew that," Secretary Fudge said about her visit. Joining Secretary Fudge were Representatives Al Green (D-TX), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), and Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX). "We were honored to welcome Secretary Fudge and several members of Congress to our affordable senior living communities in Houston. We applaud their commitment to creating strong and sustainable affordable housing for all, including seniors. We also appreciate the historic level of investment in the HUD Section 202 program provided by Congress and the Administration. Our waitlists in Houston are the largest in our portfolio, so the need and demand is clear," AMC President and CEO Steve Beck said. See AHEPA Management Company's press release [here](#). Congratulations to AHEPA!

**Expanding Housing Supply Will Rein in Inflation.** The national housing shortage, economists say, is "one of the most critical drivers of inflation" and must be addressed. Economists argue that federal investment to expand the supply of affordable housing would reduce inflation. The CPI, which measures the change in prices paid by consumers for goods and services, increased 7.9% over the last 12 months. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which tracks the CPI, "The shelter index was by far the biggest factor in the [CPI] increase." Read more about how increased housing supply is needed to rein in inflation [here](#).

**New Provider Resources – Bookmark our new Affordable Housing Provider Page!** LeadingAge members serve older people across the continuum of care, and we've cultivated resources, insights, and updates for all provider types. From updates on the latest funding and regulations to sharing best practices to analyzing policy, insights for specific provider types are collected on newly relaunched provider landing pages at [leadingage.org](http://leadingage.org):

- [Adult Day, PACE, and HCBS](#)
- [Affordable Housing](#)
- [Assisted Living](#)
- [Home Health](#)
- [Hospice](#)
- [Life Plan Communities](#)
- [Nursing Homes](#)

**President Biden Signs Omnibus.** On March 15, President Biden signed the FY2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 2471, into law. The bill provides appropriated funding for federal programs, including increased funding for HUD [affordable senior housing](#), and also includes [immigration policy improvements](#) and recommendations supported by LeadingAge. See LeadingAge's FY21 – FY22 HUD funding chart [here](#).

**HUD on Track with NSPIRE Demonstration.** HUD's NSPIRE Demonstration program, which will replace REAC's current physical inspection standards and protocol under the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) for the HUD-assisted housing portfolio, is on track to complete over 900 advisory

inspections by the end of May 2022. HUD inspectors will continue to work with approximately 4,500 volunteer properties to identify potential adjustments to NSPIRE standards, protocols, and processes, which will then be rolled out to the broader portfolio. Many LeadingAge members participating in the demonstration program have reported being scheduled for their NSPIRE inspection after two years since enrolling in the pilot program. Following the test inspections this Spring, HUD will finalize updates to the new physical inspection standards and protocol. LeadingAge has weighed in regularly with HUD on the process for rolling out the changes, as well as on the proposed protocol and standards. To join LeadingAge in this effort, or to join our monthly working group on HUD oversight mechanisms, reach out to Juliana ([jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org)). More information is [here](#).

**HUD Call for Entries: Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships.** HUD has announced that the Secretary’s Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships nominations are open. For this award, HUD works in partnership with the Council on Foundations to highlight best practices in public-philanthropic partnerships. Non-profits, foundations, and others are to be able to apply. Applications are due on March 28, 2022, and HUD will recognize all winners at a ceremony in June 2022. Below is a synopsis of the award. The award brochure with additional information can be found [here](#). The application link can be found [here](#).

**Combining Technology and Wellness in Affordable Housing.** Two LeadingAge members are partnering to make a meaningful impact on the lives of low income housing residents with whole-person wellness programming, enabled by digital devices and improved broadband access. Parker Health Group and Springpoint launched their Affordable Housing Wellness Initiative in June, a three-year pilot that began in four of Springpoint’s affordable housing communities but can later be expanded to all 19. Read more in this LeadingAge article [here](#).

**HUD Prepares Strategic Plan With Emphasis on Equity, Sustainability.** As HUD readies the agency's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, HUD's focus areas for the next four years include preserving and expanding the supply of housing, two of LeadingAge's primary goals for the affordable senior housing portfolio. The plan also emphasizes integrating healthcare, supportive services, and housing policies in a way that recognizes housing’s role as essential to health. The draft plan is expected to be officially published soon; more information is available [here](#).

**HUD Kicks off April as National Fair Housing Month.** This April, HUD is celebrating the 54th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act with events highlighting the impact and significance of this landmark civil rights law. The theme of this year’s Fair Housing Month is Fair Housing: More Than Just Words. Join HUD on Tuesday, April 5, at 2pm ET via webcast for this year’s virtual Fair Housing Month Celebration, hosted by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). This event will kick off Fair Housing Month and showcase HUD’s efforts to advance and protect fair housing rights to ensure that all people have the right to obtain the housing of their choice, free from discrimination. Speakers include:

- **Marcia L. Fudge**, Secretary, U.S. Housing and Urban Development
- **Demetria L. McCain**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

- **Melody Taylor**, Executive Director of the Interagency Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity (PAVE) and FHEO Region III Director
- **Kristen Clarke**, U.S. Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in conversation with **Damon Smith**, HUD General Counsel

You can watch the Opening Ceremony by visiting the [FHEO website](#). Please sign up [here](#).

**Register for The White House’s New Covid-19 National Preparedness Plan.** Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 1 p.m. ET. As the country enters a new phase of the national COVID-19 response, learn about the [White House’s new National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#). The plan lays out the Administration’s roadmap to fight COVID-19, including by preparing for new variants, preventing economic and educational shutdowns, continuing to vaccinate, and protecting against and treating COVID-19. According to the Administration’s announcement, the March 23<sup>rd</sup> webinar will cover the following topics:

- The launch of a new nationwide Test-to-Treat Initiative at “one-stop” locations with free tests and free treatment pills.
- Leveraging the administration’s COVID-19 Surge Response Playbook.
- Updated guidance for employers to ensure safer workplaces.
- Saving lives by solving the oxygen crisis and making emergency supplies widely available.
- And more.

Register for the White House webinar [here](#).

**HUD Resources and Webinar: Earned Income Tax Credit Information Now Available.** New resources and information about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is now available on the [HUD Exchange](#). The 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARP) expanded the EITC to include more workers without children as well as older workers (65+), temporarily raised the maximum credit for individuals without dependents from approximately \$540 to \$1,500, and increased the income cap to qualify for individuals without dependents from approximately \$16,000 to \$21,000. The EITC is not considered income, and receiving these tax credits will not impact anyone’s eligibility for federal benefits. The federal government along with hundreds of nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and members of Congress are engaged in an all-out push to make sure every eligible American receives the EITC by filing their taxes. With just over one month left until the tax filing deadline of April 18, join HUD, Treasury, and the White House on Wednesday, March 9, from 2 – 2:45pm ET for a [webinar](#) on the CTC and EITC. See LeadingAge’s EITC toolkit [here](#).

**White House outlines costs of inaction on new COVID funding.** The White House has reiterated its call for Congress to approve new COVID-19 relief funding. “We need Congress to provide the \$22.5 billion in emergency immediate funding,” the White House said today. The funding is needed for several efforts. First, to ensure there are adequate resources for vaccines, to accelerate research and development of next-generation vaccines that provide broader and more durable protection, and to purchase enough booster shots for all Americans if an additional shot is needed (also today, Pfizer/BioNTech said it will ask FDA approval for a second booster shot for people 65 and older). Second, for more monoclonal antibody treatments. “We had planned to purchase additional monoclonals as soon as next week. Without additional funding, we are cancelling those plans. And as we will make clear to governors later

this morning, we also need to cut the number of monoclonal antibody treatments we send to states by 30 percent starting next week,” the White House said today. Third, for 1.7 million doses of preventative treatments for immunocompromised Americans : We have purchased 1.7 million doses of AstraZeneca’s Evusheld — all that they could produce to date. “Without more funding, the federal government will now be forced to scale back on that purchase. So, we’ll likely run out of treatments for our most vulnerable Americans by the end of the year, if not sooner,” the White House said. Fourth, funding for the uninsured fund to reimburse medical providers for caring for uninsured individuals. “HHS will begin to scale back this program starting next week and end it completely in early April,” the White House said. Fifth, funding for global vaccination efforts. Read more about the White House’s request [here](#).