



- **LeadingAge meets with CMMI on Hospice VBID and Network Adequacy**

As CMMI considers future network adequacy standards for the hospice track of the value based insurance design demonstration, they are soliciting stakeholder feedback. LeadingAge met with the CMMI VBID team and gave initial, high level thoughts on the potential for network adequacy requirements in the demonstration. These would not come online before FY2023 but no concrete timeline has been established. If you have specific thoughts you would like CMMI to consider in this arena, please send them to Mollie at [mgurian@leadingage.org](mailto:mgurian@leadingage.org) by July 12<sup>th</sup> and we will provide them in follow up to the CMMI team.

- **President, Bipartisan Group of Senators Agree to First Piece of Infrastructure Package.**

President Biden joined a bipartisan group of Senators to endorse a \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework. The plan emphasizes infrastructure investments with an emphasis on simultaneously combatting climate change and expanding racial equity. President Biden, during a White House event to announce the long-negotiated agreement, made clear it is one or two parts of his infrastructure vision. The second part, which Congress must use its reconciliation process to enact due to lack of Republican support, must occur “in tandem” with any passage of Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework outlined, President Biden said, publicly committing to a two-track system to get both bills passed.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework includes funding to modernize and expand transit and rail networks, repair and rebuild roads and bridges, build a national network of electric vehicle chargers along highways and in rural and disadvantaged communities, electrify thousands of school and transit buses, eliminate the nation’s lead service lines and pipes to deliver clean drinking water to up to ten million American families and more than 400,000 schools and child care facilities that currently don’t have it, connect every American to reliable high-speed internet, and upgrade the nation’s power infrastructure. The second part, to be accomplished via the reconciliation process, is expected to include the affordable housing, Home and Community Based Services, and other “care economy” pieces of the Biden Administration’s American Jobs Plan. Read more about today’s announcement [here](#). Read more about LeadingAge’s goals for the parallel American Jobs Plan infrastructure [package](#).

- **Better Care Better Jobs Act Introduced.** Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), along with Chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced the Better Care Better Jobs Act, a key element of President Biden’s American Jobs Plan. A total of 40 Democratic senators signed on as original co-sponsors to the bill. U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-12), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6) and Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9) and Doris Matsui (D-CA-6) introduced the House companion.

This bill represents Congress following through on supporting the President's commitment to propose to make a significant investment in home and community-based services (HCBS). The Better Care Better Jobs Act would provide states with a permanent, enhanced federal Medicaid match for HCBS of 10% if they carry out certain activities that will support expanding access to HCBS and strengthening the direct care workforce. The President and Democratic Leadership have committed to moving the bipartisan agreement and a reconciliation bill in tandem and we anticipate that that the Better Care Better Jobs Act would be a central component of a reconciliation package. The section by section can be found [here](#) and the legislative text can be found [here](#).

- **Hospital and Healthcare Compensation Service (HCS) is has announced that they are currently conducting 2021-2022 Home Care and Hospice Salary and Benefits studies, now underway and invites LeadingAge members to [participate](#).** The deadline for participation in this year's study is August 2, 2021. The published results cover marketplace data for 60 jobs and 21 fringe benefits. The results cover job data by salary, hourly, and per visit rates with data breakouts by auspice, revenue size, region, state, and CBSA. Planned salary increases, turnover, caseload, and shift differential data are also covered.

**Directions to Participate in the Home Care or Hospice Salary & Benefits Study**

- **Download the questionnaire from the HCS website: <https://www.hhcsinc.com>**
- **Email Rosanne Zabka with HCS, [RZabka@hhcsinc.com](mailto:RZabka@hhcsinc.com) to confirm your planned participation.**
- **Email your completed questionnaire to Rosanne by August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Study participants save over 50% off the **Report** price. The pre-paid participant rate is \$185 (payment due by 8/31/2021); the billed participant rate is \$205. The standard report pricing for nonparticipants is \$375.

- **ACL/CMS Webinar: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy among Direct Service Workers.** On Thursday, July 1, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET, ACL and CMS will host a webinar, “Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy Among Direct Service Workers.” In this webinar, experts in the field will discuss demographics of the DSW workforce, barriers to vaccination, strategies to increase vaccine confidence and uptake, and promising practices. **Panelists include: Cory Nourie**, Director of Community Services, Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services; **Ramu Iyer**, National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Advisory Council Member; **Robert Espinoza**, Vice President of Policy, PHI; and **Trudy Rebert**, Federal Policy Counsel, National Domestic Workers Alliance. Webinar Registration is available [here](#). You can also contact [Meredith Raymond](#), with any questions.
- **Older Workers legislation passes the House.** The House passed HR 2062, Protecting Older Workers from Discrimination Act, by a vote of 218-205 (it was packaged with several other bills, including a bill on contraception and a bill on LGBTQ equality). This bill deals with the standard of proof that older workers must show to prove discrimination on the basis of age.
- **NEW Communications Resource for the Care Economy Discussion.** Older adults and aging services are in the national spotlight, as the Biden Administration unveiled a monumental care economy proposal with significant resources for home and community-based aging services,

affordable senior housing, broadband and more. We have an unprecedented opportunity to secure resources for older adults!

To help you speak out for this proposal, LeadingAge produced [Guidance for Leveraging the Public Conversation on Older Adults and the Care Economy](#). The document provides four pieces of strategic communications advice relevant to the national care economy discussion. We encourage you to engage in the public debate, following this guidance. This strategic advice is based on original LeadingAge research, conducted as part of our new initiative Opening Doors to Aging Services, which will build public awareness and understanding of our field. ***All references to LeadingAge research are confidential.*** [Read the guidance now.](#)

- **Member Technology Tales.** As we launch the [LeadingAge Story Collector](#), powered by Greystone, we are focused on stories about technology. Throughout the pandemic, we've seen how technology is critical to empowering older adults and helping them age well--both at home and in residential settings.

We're looking for compelling technology stories that can answer these questions:

- How was the technology received by your staff, older adults and families?
- What allowed you to adopt the technology?
- What lessons did your organization learn from the experience?
- What is a specific benefit to or impact on your organization and/or those you serve?

[Tell us your story now!](#)