



## Housing Weekly Recap

January 7, 2022

*Happy New Year!*

**The next Housing Advisory Group call is on January 10 , 2022 at 12:30pm ET.** We will be joined by Gus Keach-Longo with The Towers in New Haven, CT. Gus will share his experience using energy savings to benefit residents. Any LeadingAge member can join the Housing Advisory Group's weekly calls and email listserv by selecting "Housing Advisory Group" in your membership account's Online Subscriptions, or by emailing Linda ([lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org)) or Juliana ([jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org)).

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls.** Having problems parsing CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines for "everyone" versus those for health care workers? You're not alone. Check out our **Monday, January 10 3:30 PM ET Update call** to hear from Dr. Nimalie Stone of CDC. She will explain the most recent CDC guidance on isolation after a positive test, the December 23 updated [recommendations for healthcare personnel](#) and [strategies for mitigating staffing shortages](#), CDC's work to promote boosters and other CDC issues. As always, Nimalie will explain things clearly and directly and take caller questions. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#).

**COVID Status: Check-In on All LeadingAge Members.** LeadingAge is surveying its members from across all aging services settings to learn about the COVID-related issues you are presently facing and to determine how we can best support your needs. [Thank you for answering these short questions](#).  
Deadline: Monday, January 10, close of business.

**Treasury Releases Final Rule on State and Local Relief Funds.** On January 6, the Department of the Treasury issued its final rule on the \$350 billion state and local fiscal recovery funds programs. These funds were provided by Congress to state and local governments by the American Rescue Plan in 2021. States and local governments were allocated the funds in 2021 and have been spending the funds at a brisk pace under the guidelines of a May 2021 interim final rule. The January 6 final rule provides some changes, clarification and flexibilities to the interim final rule. One change provides an expanded set of households and communities that are presumed to be "impacted" and "disproportionately impacted" by the pandemic, thereby allowing recipients to provide responses to a broad set of households and entities without requiring additional analysis. Read more about this relief that can be used for affordable housing, aid to nonprofits, broadband, premium pay and much more [here](#).

**HUD Re-Nominates Assistant Secretary Positions.** A new calendar year brings a requirement for all unconfirmed political nominees to be re-nominated and for their confirmation processes in the Senate to begin again. This week, the White House resubmitted the following nominations for HUD positions to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, which considers HUD nominees before a full Senate confirmation vote: Julia Gordon to be Assistant Secretary for Housing and the Federal Housing Commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), James Jemison II to be Assistant Secretary of Public & Indian Housing, Dave Uejio to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal

Opportunity (FHEO), Solomon Greene to be Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, and Elizabeth de León Bhargava Nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Administration.

**High Rates of Housing Insecurity for Older Adult Renters of Color.** A new blog from the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University describes how older renters of color have experienced high rates of housing insecurity during the COVID pandemic. The Joint Center used data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Surveys to shed light on the impact of the pandemic on older adults’ housing. The Household Pulse Surveys have been conducted frequently, once every one or two weeks, since April 2020 and offer a trove of pandemic impact information, including on housing. “When breaking down trends by race, ethnicity, and tenure type, dramatic disparities emerge. They are particularly apparent among older renter households. During the last year, Black households were on average twice as likely to be behind on rent compared to white households. In addition, over a quarter of older Asian renter households reported being behind on housing payments,” the blog says. The analysis also shows that while increasing shares of renter households reported difficulty making payments over time, the situation for older homeowners of either age group appears to have improved slightly in the last year. For older adults, the blog also notes the impact of housing costs on other household expenses. “Compared to the number of older respondents who reported late housing payments, more older adults experienced difficulty paying for household expenses. This suggests that the financial strain of the pandemic caused some to cut back in areas besides housing. While figures improved over 2021, as of this fall, 16.3% of households aged 65-79 and 11.4% of those 80 and over reported recently struggling to pay for general expenses,” the blog says. Read the blog [here](#).

**HUD Updates Management Fee Schedule for Southwest Region.** HUD Multifamily Southwest Region, in accordance with Chapter 3 of The Management Agent Handbook (4381.5), is providing an updated fee schedule for properties within its jurisdiction (includes AK, IA, KS, LA, MS, NE, NM, OK, and TX). The revised fee schedule went into effect January 1, 2022 and includes the basic rate of \$45 per unit per month, plus a maximum of \$20 PUPM for a combination of eligible fees. The eligible fees provide various add-ons for homeless preferences, certain Section 202 and 811 projects, remote location projects, and more, plus buildings participating the Better Buildings Challenge to achieve energy efficiency. The updated fee schedule is available [here](#), and questions should be directed to [MFSouthwest@hud.gov](mailto:MFSouthwest@hud.gov). More information about special fees is available in the HUD Handbook 4381.5, Chapter 3.

**HUD Examines Feasibility of National Evictions Database.** In a recent report to Congress, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research examined the feasibility of creating a national evictions database. The database would collect information on formal court-ordered evictions, extra-legal evictions, and administrative evictions, including evictions of HUD-assisted households. Throughout three chapters, HUD discusses the background on the need for an evictions database, lessons learned to date from efforts to collect data on evictions, and potential approaches for HUD to build a national dataset on evictions. Suggested approaches include leveraging existing databases and making Congressional grants available for state and local capacity to collect and share evictions data. More information is available [here](#); LeadingAge supports increased capacity and accessibility of eviction data, as well as investments to prevent evictions among older adults.

**AASC Board News.** LeadingAge is proud to the American Association of Service Coordinators’ announcement that so many of our members have leadership roles there. The announcement was

chock-full of good news for LeadingAge members, including Beth Southorn of LifeSTEPS who is AASC's new board chair, new AASC board member Natasha Ofosu from Volunteers of America National Services, and new board executives Linda Coleman from HumanGood (as board secretary) and Jennifer Truppa from Embrace Living Communities (as board treasurer). Congratulations as well to LeadingAge members John Deihl from Embrace Community Living who has served six years as AASC board chair and will remain on the board, and Donna Thurmond from Volunteers of America who has retired after 19 years of service. Congratulations to all!

**Three free, new QuickCasts for LeadingAge members:**

1. [Re-Ignite Your Organizational Culture](#), detailing eight recruitment and retention strategies LeadingAge members can implement to strengthen their workforce culture in today's environment.
2. [Workforce Well-Being: It's About Burnout](#), an in-depth look into staff burnout: what it is, what it isn't and resources to help you and your staff through these difficult times from April Naturale, who has worked with individuals and families living with the impact of disasters, trauma, and violence for the past 30 years. She explores common distress symptoms and proven strategies to manage compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. [Dispelling COVID Myths QuickCast](#). In this 20-minute QuickCast in the LeadingAge Learning Hub, Dee Pekruhn separates fact from myth when it comes to getting vaccinated, and provides a curated list of resources for building confidence in COVID vaccines.

For more topics, browse the [Hub Content Library](#).

**Updates to COVID-19 Return to Work and Vaccine Toolkits.** With the CMS and CDC new guidance and updates, the following toolkits, policy and procedures and forms have been updated on our [Vaccine Mandates: Information, Tools, & Resources page](#), including these documents::

- COVID - 19 Vaccine Employee Policy
- Screening and Monitoring - Return to Work criteria policy and procedure, including new grid from CDC update from 12/23
- Sample LOG for vaccine documentation
- Sample Religious Exemption Form
- Sample Medical Exemption Form