



# ACT FOR OLDER ADULTS

## Lame Duck COVID-19 Relief HUD-Assisted Senior Housing

Congress must do more to ensure HUD-assisted older adults survive the coronavirus pandemic. HUD's programs serve more than 1 million older adults (62+) in congregate apartment buildings.

The coronavirus has been particularly vicious for older adults, with more than 80% of coronavirus deaths among people 62+.

Affordable senior housing providers need immediate help beyond what was included in the CARES Act to practice effective infection control, remain fully staffed, combat social isolation, and ensure HUD-assisted older adults stay physically and mentally healthy.

### HUD-Assisted Senior Housing Hard Hit by COVID-19

In an October 2020, survey of affordable senior housing providers:

- 60% said they are aware of confirmed COVID-19 cases in some or most of their property or properties.
- 84% said they consider resident social isolation and access to services to be the top challenge in the next three months.
- 69% said they are at least financially strained, if not severely financially strained, due to COVID-19.

### Support H.R. 6873 and S. 4177, The Emergency Housing Assistance for Older Adults Act of 2020

The identical bills would provide a total of \$1.2 billion to help HUD Section 202 Housing for the Elderly and Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance senior housing with COVID-19 related costs:

- \$845 million to **cover a COVID-19 costs** in affordable senior housing communities, including staffing, cleaning and disinfecting, PPE, services, security, etc.
- \$300 million for **Service Coordinators**. These dollars would be to get Service Coordinators in HUD senior buildings that do not have one. Half of HUD senior communities do not have a Service Coordinator.
- \$50 million for **wireless internet** installation and service fees for HUD assisted resident apartments. HUD currently does not pay for internet installation or service fees in apartments and therefore most residents do not have it. They miss out on efforts to combat social isolation, telehealth, and connection to community services.

### Ask Your Members of Congress to:

- Include the relief provided by H.R. 6873 and S. 4177 into the next COVID-19 relief bill.