



February 9, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters  
Chair  
House Committees on Financial Services  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Waters:

On behalf of LeadingAge's more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-minded organizations that touch millions of lives every day, I write to urge you to include relief proposed by your 2020 bill, H.R. 6873, the *Emergency Housing Assistance for Older Adults Act*, in the COVID-19 relief package the Committee on Financial Services is preparing for the House Committee on the Budget.

The bill directly responds to the urgent needs of older adult residents of HUD-assisted affordable housing communities by providing:

- \$300 million for **Service Coordinators**. These dollars will help provide service coordinators in the half of HUD senior buildings that currently do not have them. Service coordinators fulfill the critical role of connecting older adult residents to needed services. The \$300 million for new service coordinators was included in the House-passed HEROES Act.
- \$50 million for **wireless internet** installation and service fees for HUD-assisted resident apartments. Without internet in their apartments, residents miss out on efforts to combat social isolation, telehealth, and connection to community services.
- \$845 million to **cover COVID-19 costs** in affordable senior housing communities, including staffing, cleaning and disinfecting, PPE, services like meals, security, etc.

Almost 800,000 older adults live in privately-owned, HUD-assisted housing through programs like Project-Based Rental Assistance and Section 202 Housing for the Elderly. These residents, and the providers who serve them, need your help.

The provisions in the bill are supported by:

AARP  
American Association of Service Coordinators  
B'nai B'rith International  
Center for Disability Rights

National Alliance of HUD Tenants  
n4a  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Association for County Community and  
Economic Development

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force  
EHDOC  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
HEARTH  
HumanGood  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Justice in Aging  
LeadingAge  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
National Affordable Housing Management Association  
National Caucus & Center on Black Aging  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Community Reinvestment Coalition  
National Housing Trust  
National Leased Housing Association  
National Well Home Network  
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future (SAHF)  
Technical Assistance Collaborative  
Volunteers of America  
Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)

We urge the Committee on Financial Services to include this relief for older adults in HUD-assisted senior housing communities. Please reach out to Linda Couch, [lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org), with any questions.

Sincerely,



Katie Smith Sloan  
President and CEO  
LeadingAge

cc: Members, House Committee on Financial Services