

PACE Organization Update

February 5, 2021



Please contact Brendan Flinn (bflinn@leadingage.org) with questions or comments.

PACE Funding COVID Relief Bill: The next round of COVID-19 legislation is coming together. The Biden Administration released their priorities for this bill, which our team summarized [here](#). The House and Senate are working on putting a bill together using reconciliation and the various committees are working on bills within their respective jurisdictions. The bills themselves have not been published but as we understand right now, there are instructions to include close to \$10 billion specifically for Medicaid HCBS (waiver, state plan, PACE). This is close to the cost of last year's proposed COVID HCBS Relief Act (\$13.6B), which would have provided a two year, 10 point Medicaid HCBS FMAP increase- including for the Medicaid share of PACE. Unlike the general FMAP increase, this FMAP increase would have to actually go to these services. We joined a coalition letter supporting including an FMAP increase and have communicated this ask with key committee staff (e.g., Senate Finance), as well as the need for funding support outside just the Medicaid space.

Medicare Sequestration Advocacy: The Medicare sequestration (the 2% rate cut) is suspended through the end of March, 2021. Once the suspension expires, the 2% cut will go back into effect for PACE organizations and other providers reimbursed by Medicare. LeadingAge joined a wide-ranging coalition letter asking that the next COVID relief bill extend the suspension through at least the end of the Public Health Emergency, which was extended through calendar year 2021.

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Rollout: In early February, the CDC rolled out the Retail Pharmacy Program, through which pharmacies across the country will receive direct vaccine shipments to vaccinate state-specified priority populations. Pharmacies will be able to administer vaccines beginning February 11. LeadingAge has worked closely with CDC and other federal agencies involved in vaccine rollout and have repeatedly brought up PACE recipients and workers. Certain pharmacies will be able to host on-site clinics (like flu shot clinics), which could be held to vaccinate people receiving services and/or working in PACE centers and other community settings. See LeadingAge summary [here](#).

Policy Action Forum: LeadingAge held its [Policy Action Forum](#) on January 27 to educate members on what's going on in DC, to share insights on what to expect as a new Congress and Administration come into power and to urge members to engage in advocacy. Dr. Adaeze Enekeuchi served as the keynote speaker. A recording is available [here](https://www.engagez.net/LeadingAgePolicy): <https://www.engagez.net/LeadingAgePolicy>. (Note: sign-in required. If your email doesn't work, use bflinn@leadingage.org. No password required. Once logged in click "Watch" in the green box on the lower left hand corner.)

100 Days of Advocacy: Following the Policy Action Forum, LeadingAge launched its [100 Days of Advocacy](#) campaign, designed to activate LeadingAge members to push Congress and the Administration to further support aging services providers of all types through the pandemic. The goals of this campaign focus on: vaccines, testing, PPE, staffing and financing. We regularly engage members in our advocacy meetings with Congress and encourage interested PACE organizations to reach out to be part of this.

LeadingAge Formally Affiliates with VNAA: This week, LeadingAge [announced](#) formal affiliation with the Visiting Nurse Associations of America, and that its members joined the LeadingAge community. This affiliation further develops LeadingAge's representation of providers offering care in the home and community.