

## PACE Organization Update

April 2, 2021



**American Jobs Plan update:** On March 31, the White House rolled out the American Jobs Plan, a \$2 trillion set of proposals that includes, among others, about \$400 billion dedicated to expanding and improving home and community-based services. Limited details are included in the American Jobs Plan fact sheet on where those dollars would go, but we anticipate there would be significant funding available to states to expand HCBS to those on waiting lists and beyond. The full fact sheet is here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>. Next steps from LeadingAge are in the next section...

**LeadingAge Blueprint for a Better Aging Infrastructure:** On April 1, LeadingAge introduced its [Blueprint for a Better Aging Infrastructure](#). The Blueprint is meant to add to the national discussion on infrastructure and next steps in Congress, and is comprised of five sections – workforce, services in the home and community, affordable housing, nursing homes, and long-term care structural and financing reform. We propose a permanent increase to the Medicaid FMAP across all LTSS settings including for PACE organizations, reclassifying the Medicaid HCBS as mandatory across states, expanding access to PACE and other integrated models of care, funding for programs to design, revamp, and build accessible physical spaces like day centers, and much more. Our Blueprint is based on the principle, confirmed by President Biden’s American Jobs Plan, that building an aging services infrastructure for the 21st century is a critical element of any overall infrastructure conversation. We sent a [letter to Congressional leadership](#) outlining the plan, and will advocate for the Blueprint elements as part of our Lobby Day agenda.

**PACE Audio-Only Telehealth bill:** Also part of our Lobby Day agenda is the legislation before the House and Senate on telehealth and risk adjustment submissions for PACE (and Medicare Advantage) organizations. You can see the cosponsor list for the House bill [here](#), and the Senate bill [here](#). We will definitely want to advocate support for the bills including co-sponsorship from those who represent PACE organizations and participants.

**Medicare Sequester:** With Congress on recess, there was no legislative action on the Medicare sequester bill following the Senate vote last week. We anticipate the House will pass the Senate bill (suspending the sequester through the end of 2021) when it returns in mid-April. Meanwhile, the CMS Medicare Learning Network issued this notice on March 30:

*In anticipation of possible Congressional action to extend the 2% sequester reduction suspension, we instructed the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to hold all claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2021, for a short period without affecting providers’ cash flow. This will minimize the volume of claims the MACs must reprocess if Congress extends the suspension; the MACs will automatically reprocess any claims paid with the reduction applied if necessary.*

We will provide updates as we learn more, but PACE organizations and other Medicare billers may experience delays in payments over the next couple of weeks.

**Vaccine Update:** We continue to work with CDC to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for aging services providers and the individuals they serve. The Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership has ended, and since mid-March the federal government has been providing direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccines to long-term care pharmacies under the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program through 3 group purchasing organizations: Managed Healthcare Associates, GeriMed, and Innovatix. Long-term care pharmacies partnered with these organizations or enrolled through their state(s) can administer vaccine. Providers should reach out to their existing long-term care pharmacy to discuss options for continued access. If the provider's existing long-term care pharmacy is unable to provide vaccine, providers can check with other long-term care pharmacies in the area identified through the state health department or [this list](#) from CDC. More information can be found [here](#). **If the pharmacies your organization works with is not on the CDC list, please let us ([bfliinn@leadingage.org](mailto:bfliinn@leadingage.org)) know that and the name of the pharmacy; we can communicate that information back to CDC.**

**Vaccine Outreach Funding:** The CDC and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced this week a joint effort (CDC-funded, ACL-administered) to provide the aging and disability networks with close to \$100 million for vaccine outreach, education, transportation, and other supports to reach older adults and people with disabilities. The state units on aging (SUAs) and the area agencies on aging (AAAs) will receive \$50 million, and \$26 million will go to the aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs). We don't know how much each specific entity will get. LeadingAge is reaching out to the associations that represent these organizations to discuss possible next steps and partnership opportunities. More information is available here: <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/partnership-cdc-increase-access-covid-19-vaccines>

**CDC Guidance, Adult Day Services Centers:** On March 31, CDC issued guidance documents for adult day services centers and participants on safe operations through the pandemic. While written for the adult day audience, there could be helpful insights and recommendations for PACE organizations as PACE centers reopen and/or continue to operate in various capacities. Key links follow...

- LeadingAge article on the guidance: <https://leadingage.org/regulation/cdc-issues-covid-19-guidance-adult-day-centers-participants>
- CDC Adult day provider guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/adult-day-care-service-centers.html>
- CDC Adult day participant guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/adult-day-service-centers.html>

**CDC Guidance, Travel and Vaccinated People:** On April 2, CDC issued updated guidance for fully vaccinated people. The key updates relate to travel, specifically:

- *Fully vaccinated people can resume domestic travel and do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.*
- *Fully vaccinated people do not need to get tested before leaving the United States (unless required by the destination) or self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.*

The guidance is found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>. Here is a CNN article on the guidance that might also be helpful: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/02/health/cdc-travel-guidance-fully-vaccinated-wellness/index.html>

**PPP Application Period Extended:** President Biden signed legislation today extending the PPP deadline to May 31 for borrower applications and June 30 for banks to process applications. The program was set to expire tomorrow, but prospective borrowers now have until the end of May to get applications in. See more here: <https://leadingage.org/legislation/ppp-loan-application-period-extended-may-31>. As a reminder, the December 2020 bill added a PPP Second Draw Loan opportunity for certain borrowers, and the American Rescue Plan expanded eligibility for PPP First Draw Loans to 501(c)(3) organizations with up to 500 employees **per physical location** and PPP Second Draw Loans to 501(c)(3) organizations with up to 300 employees **per physical location**, if they meet additional Second Draw eligibility criteria.

**Careers in Aging Week, April 18-24:** Save the date for Careers in Aging Week! While COVID-19 may have slowed the movement of people into the LTSS field, nothing can stop us from sharing the joy and meaning in our jobs - along with its wide range of careers. For the third year, LeadingAge will partner with the Gerontological Society of America, AHCA/NCAL, Argentum, and the Erickson School of Aging Services at UMBC, to sponsor Careers in Aging Week. The focus will be increasing awareness of careers in aging on social media. Learn more about how you can participate in Careers in Aging Week.

**2021-2022 Flu Vaccines Discounts for Members:** This flu season, we are partnering with [Member Solutions partner Seqirus](#), a leader in the fight against influenza with an innovative portfolio of products. As a LeadingAge member, you are eligible to earn multiple discounts across Seqirus' portfolio of innovative 6 influenza and vaccine solutions, including prompt pay and early reservation offers.

Pre-book reservation by **April 15, 2021** to receive:

- 3% discount on orders
- 2% discount on orders paid within 60 days

The ability to return 25% of each brand ordered and unused by the end of the season  
[Learn more and preorder today!](#)

**Reminder on LeadingAge Member Call Ins:** LeadingAge hosts a COVID-19 update call series for members on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 PM EST. Every call includes an update on home and community-based services, updates for other provider types, and interviews with key experts (e.g., CDC officials, academics, providers) to share out real-time insights to our members. The calls generally run for one hour and recordings are on our website. Register here:  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2218416852977539339>

#### Update archive

- March 26: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate32621.pdf>
- March 19: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACEupdate31921.pdf>
- March 12: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%203.12.21.pdf>
- March 8:  
<https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20Organization%20Update%203.8.pdf>
- February 26: [https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%202.26.21\\_0.pdf](https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%202.26.21_0.pdf)
- February 19: <https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/PACE%20update%202.19.21.pdf>