

Senior Housing Weekly Recap

January 15, 2021

HUD Section 202 Senior Housing and Vaccine Clinic Forum - Join LeadingAge on January 19 to hear from the CDC, HUD, and Section 202 providers about COVID-19 vaccine distribution clinics. For its Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, the CDC recommended states include HUD Section 202 communities as “long term care facilities” in their earliest vaccine distribution strategies as part of the Pharmacy Partnership. Today, vaccine clinics conducted by the Program’s pharmacy partners, CVS and Walgreens, have begun. The January 19 Forum will feature remarks from and CDC and HUD, and updates and insights from housing providers who have hosted vaccine clinics through the Pharmacy Partnership, followed by an audience Q&A. Register [here](#) to attend.

HUD Announces New Capital Advance dollars – HUD has released the long-awaited competition details for \$150 million in new Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly funds. The application deadline is May 26. Each project capped at \$20 million, and HUD expects to make about 45 awards. HUD has also released a HUD 202 application toolkit that can be useful. SAVE THE DATE - LeadingAge will have a call on February 2 with the director of this program to address member questions. Here is an [article](#) about the funding competition.

Reminder: Please Take the LeadingAge Quarterly Housing Survey on Vaccines, HUD payments, and more - Following up on our October 2020 survey of COVID-19 impacts on affordable senior housing, we hope housing providers can fill out this quick pulse-check on vaccines, COVID testing, and HUD payments, and more. The information we collect helps us with our advocacy at HUD and on Capitol Hill, helps determine the kinds of materials to produce for our housing members, and will help you understand how your peers are doing when we share the results. Please take a moment and [complete the survey](#). Thank you.

Biden COVID plan – As planned, President-Elect Biden released his \$1.9 Trillion “[American Rescue Plan: Emergency Legislative Package to Fund Vaccinations, Provide Immediate, Direct Relief to Families Bearing the Brunt of the COVID-19 Crisis, and Support Struggling Communities](#).” While there aren’t a lot of details yet, the plan includes a national vaccination program with greater coordination with states and localities; community vaccination centers and mobile vaccination units; and expanded public health workforce. The plan extends the national eviction moratorium until September 30 and provides a new \$30 billion for emergency rental assistance, \$5 billion for utility assistance, and \$5 billion for housing assistance for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In addition, funds for small businesses, funds for safely reopening schools; extended federal unemployment insurance; the expected \$1400 direct payments per person; and more. We will report as the details on vaccinations are released.

Pharmacy Partnership clarifies 202 eligibility - We learned from the CDC that the Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program (PPLTC) [FAQs](#) have been updated to include, *in writing*, language we’ve been asking for that spells out exactly which provider types a state may opt to include in its vaccine distribution program. If your state is still telling you CDC won’t let states include independent living in a CCRC or HUD Section 202s, our contact person there says she will explain in no uncertain terms that

states are permitted to include them. Governors had this language for many weeks, though it was just added to the revised FAQs.

Vaccine hesitancy resource from IHI. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has created a toolkit to help support discussions about vaccine hesitancy. The toolkit is aimed at nursing homes but the information and skills are transferrable. Some key tips included in the toolkit:

- Take your time. Don't rush conversations and go into them prepared. Also, be prepared to have these conversations over and over again as you work to increase residents' and staff's comfort levels.
- Trust is paramount. Identify the individuals who residents and staff trust when receiving information and engage these individuals as conversation leaders. Remember, the conversation leaders may not be "leadership staff" and may not be clinical staff. What matters is identifying who your staff and residents view as a trusted resource and empowering these individuals with the information they need for effective conversation.
- Remember that this is a CONVERSATION. It's not a lecture or a debate. The purpose is to listen, engage, and support individuals through the decision-making process. Encourage conversation leaders and others to share their own decision-making process.
- Celebrate the fact that we are even having this conversation. It's a huge step in the right direction when people are willing to explore the topic. And we can all celebrate the fact that we're even able to have this conversation!

More tips and tools on vaccines for housing communities are [available here](#).

View event recording: LeadingAge, Johns Hopkins vaccine town hall addresses hesitancy, safety concerns at housing communities– During this week's joint [vaccine town hall](#) hosted by LeadingAge and Johns Hopkins University, vaccine experts addressed issues of safety, hesitancy, and messaging at assisted living and senior housing communities. The recording is now available [here](#), and a summary of the event's audience Q&A is available [here](#). The panel featured William Moss, Director of the International Vaccine Access Center, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Dr. Ruth Link-Gelles from the CDC, among other vaccine experts; the event accompanies two free courses recently released by Johns Hopkins University, in partnership with LeadingAge, covering pandemic preparedness and response for [assisted living](#) and [senior housing](#) providers.

Contact tracing professionals share tips for housing providers – This week's LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group call featured researchers from the Hopkins Center for Global Health, who shared contact tracing tips for senior housing providers facing outbreaks at their communities. The call also featured insight from LeadingAge housing provider members who have conducted contact tracing at their communities through their own initiatives or in partnership with local health departments. Thanks to everyone who participated and shared! The slide deck from the call, including risk reduction strategies and contact tracing considerations for housing settings, is available [here](#). To sign up for our Housing Advisory Group call, email [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Housing Advisory Group call, Coronavirus Update calls cancelled: Next week, we will be closed Monday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Wednesday for Inauguration day, so there will be no update call on January 18 or 20. Join us next Thursday, January 21, to hear from Steve Nash, President and CEO of Stoddard Baptist Home Foundation. He has a lifetime in elder care as his family has helped grow Stoddard Baptist in the DC community. Steve will provide his insights on how you can communicate with staff and the public to tackle

tough issues like vaccine hesitancy, increasing staff morale and providing care to underserved communities. Steve uses his gospel themed radio show and online platforms to talk about the key issues of the day and build trust in the community. We'll also cover all the policy updates related to the new administration.