



Senior Housing Weekly Recap

February 19, 2021

LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group – Join the LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET to hear the latest updates and connect with other housing providers. Email jbilowich@leadingage.org or lcouch@leadingage.org to join.

Upcoming Housing Advisory Group Call Schedule:

- **February 22** – General Updates on vaccine, service coordination, LeadingAge workgroups, and more
- **March 1** – HUD staff to join call and discuss Service Coordinator renewal guidance; advance questions welcome to jbilowich@leadingage.org
- **March 8** – Grief support/End of Life planning expert to join call and discuss resources for affordable housing providers; advance questions welcome to jbilowich@leadingage.org

HUD opens 2021 Service Coordinator Renewals; HUD staff to join LeadingAge call – On February 19, HUD opened the application period for Calendar Year 2021 Service Coordinator program renewals in GrantSolutions. Under a compressed timeline for the delayed grant renewals, applications are due by March 22, with disbursements projected for June or July. HUD staff overseeing the grants program will join a LeadingAge call on March 1 to discuss the renewal guidance, go over key dates for the program, and answer questions from members. To join the call with HUD, email jbilowich@leadingage.org. For more information about the CY21 renewal guidance is available [here](#).

USDA issues updated COVID-19 FAQs for Rural Housing Providers – In a new set of COVID-19 FAQs, Rural Development's Multifamily Housing, which oversees rural rental assistance programs, provide guidance for rural housing providers on annual financial reports, reserve draws, RTOs, and income recertifications. Among other updates, the agency declined to issue an automatic extension of the due date for annual financial reports, but allowed approved extensions on a case by case basis. The FAQs also cover extended tenant income loss and suspend handbook requirements related to zero-income certifications. The full set of FAQ is available online [here](#).

Transitioning from the Long Term Care Pharmacy Partnership to the Retail Pharmacy Program. Dr. Ruth Link-Gelles from the CDC shared information about the sunsetting of one partnership and ramping up the next. Read a summary of the interview here. [Here's](#) the link to the CDC Retail Pharmacy Program.

Vaccine Allocations Roll Out to Community Health Centers. Affordable senior housing communities may have another vaccine partner resource in community health centers. The week of February 15, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the CDC launched a program to directly allocate a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine to select HRSA-funded health centers. More information is [here](#).

LeadingAge 2021 Policy Priorities. We are excited to announce that our [2021 Policy Priorities](#) are now live and on our website. Thanks and kudos to all LeadingAge members who shared experiences, policy ideas, challenges, and “what keeps you up nights” to support the development of these priorities. Today we sent an email to all LeadingAge members highlighting our new priorities and encouraging them to learn about our key issues and to stay active in our 100 Days of Advocacy Campaign. We have also created a landing page for our 100 Days of Advocacy resources that can be [found here](#). Thank you to all of our state partners and our members for the feedback we received on our priorities through town halls and other discussions. Our priorities are bold and we look forward to working with you to implement them during the rest of this year and beyond.

Report: Severe Housing Cost Burdens for Older Renters. A new report from Justice in Aging found that more than 1.7 million extremely low income (ELI) (households with incomes below 30% of area median) renter households with an older adult are severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities. The report also found older Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native American households are about three times more likely to be ELI renters than older white households. An article on the report is [here](#).

Update from Capitol Hill. The House has almost completed work on its relief bill. The House bills that will make up the House’s COVID relief package do not include LeadingAge’s request for \$1.2 billion in relief for affordable senior housing providers. We are still working with the Senate to include their relief in their bill. The Senate’s bill will closely track the House’s package, but we are hopeful there is still room for the relief we’re seeking. To that end, LeadingAge is promoting this [Action Alert](#) to encourage members of the Senate to add funding for housing programs. House leaders are planning additional time to vote again on the week of March 8, in case the Senate does make changes. It’s not over until it’s over.

Upcoming Webinars from the Administration on Community Living:

- [ACL 2/23 Webinar: Financial Protection for Older Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [ACL / engAGED 2/24 Webinar: Addressing Social Isolation Through Senior Housing During COVID-19](#)