



Senior Housing Weekly

February 26, 2021

3/1 Housing Advisory Group Call. HUD staff will join the March 1, 12:30 p.m. ET Housing Advisory Group call to discuss the new Service Coordinator renewal guidance, HUD's timeline for Service Coordinator funding, and to answer member questions. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Also on 3/1: Coronavirus Update Call on Monday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m. ET: "Vaccinated visitors? Does that change things? How?" As staff and residents are vaccinated, there is going to be more ability to open up activities and visitation. Many providers are wondering how to do it safely and effectively and Cindy Jerome, Executive Director of Alice Day Peck Life Plan Community who will provide details on their newly launched Verified Vaccinated Visitor program in their independent living community. If you haven't registered for the calls, you can do so [here](#).

Eviction Moratorium Continues Despite Ruling. On February 25, a federal judge in Texas ruled that the federal moratorium on evictions is unconstitutional. The ruling does not include an injunction; the moratorium for evictions for nonpayment of rent remains in effect. However, the decision will bring additional confusion to renters and landlords like on the issue. An article is [here](#).

FCC Adopts Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Rules. On February 25, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a "report and order," the FCC's version of a regulation, to establish program guidelines for the new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) authorized by Congress on December 27. The program will provide up to \$50 a month to low income households and up to \$75 a month to households on Native American land for broadband service. The EBBP will also provide a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a computer or tablet for eligible homes. FCC expects the program to be up and running in the next 60 days. An article is [here](#).

Treasury Department Eases Access to Emergency Rental Relief – The Treasury Department [updated guidance for the new Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) program](#), which helps cover housing costs for renter households financially impacted by COVID-19. On January 29, LeadingAge sent a [letter](#) to the Treasury Department, the White House, and to HUD, urging them to ease access to the rent relief for older adults with low incomes. Under its updated FAQs, the Treasury Department has eased access for qualifying households, including allowing HUD-assisted older adults to be eligible for ERA assistance and allowing applicants to self-certify their financial hardship eligibility for the program, two key LeadingAge asks. The \$25 billion Emergency Rental Assistance program will help bring stability to some of the estimated 30-40 million renter households at risk of eviction, and will help reimburse housing providers for rent receipt loss during the ongoing crisis.

Webinar: MEP Building Systems: Mitigating Infectious Disease Transmission. On March 10, 2- 3 p.m. ET, a LeadingAge webinar will detail how mechanical/HVAC, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) building systems can help address health concerns in buildings. The webinar will:

- Define the role MEP building systems play in minimizing the spread of viruses and bacteria.
- Discuss the main methods in which MEP engineering can be used in building design to create healthier spaces for people.
- Consider the application of existing and emerging technologies in both renovation and new construction projects that can help create improved building environments.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Food Insecurity and Malnutrition. On March 11, 3 - 4 p.m. ET, an Administration for Community Living webinar will focus on understanding the intent of the Older Americans Act to address nutrition, socialization, and health and well-being. The webinar will:

- Distinguish between nutrition and food insecurity
- Identify the root causes of malnutrition and present innovative approaches to combatting malnutrition
- Discuss the importance of partnerships and lessons learned

To register, click [here](#).

Guidance for Vaccine Sites. The CDC has issued Guidance for Vaccinating Older Adults and People with Disabilities for Vaccination Sites to ensure providers are prepared to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities and older adults when they receive vaccination services. The guidance includes strategies such as working with partner organizations that serve older adults and people with disabilities, such as state agencies on aging and disabilities and Centers for Independent Living. The CDC also makes recommend on planning for appointments, including that providers have staff dedicated to addressing reasonable accommodation needs and can offer vaccination sites that are accessible. The guidance includes suggestions for scheduling appointments, giving vaccines, and planning for after the vaccination. The guidance is [here](#).

Guidance for Jurisdictions on Equitable Access. In addition to the CDC's guidance for vaccine sites, above, the CDC has also issued guidance for jurisdictions to ensure equal opportunities for vaccination of older adults and people with disabilities. The guidance recommends jurisdictions: consider collaborating with the following partners who may already work with older adults and people with disabilities; specify how older adults and people with disabilities and their care providers are considered in jurisdictional vaccination plans; consider which vaccination providers can offer vaccines at locations more convenient for older adults and people with disabilities, and provide examples of such locations; consider needs of homebound persons and people in rural or remote areas; and, Monitor vaccination clinic accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities, among other recommendations. The guidance is [here](#).

People with dementia are more vulnerable to COVID-19. Dr. Rebecca Edelmayer from the Alzheimer's Association joined the Coronavirus Update Call to discuss the findings of a recent study exploring the relationships between dementia and COVID-19 risks, hospitalizations, deaths and disparities. An article summarizing the interview can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall For Frontline Care Workers - Thursday, March 4 -- 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Eastern. LeadingAge, in partnership with the [Black Coalition Against COVID](#) (BCAC), is sponsoring a national town hall with the aging services community to address concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, particularly among direct care workers. The agenda will feature senior leadership from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Historically Black Colleges and Universities' medical schools, the National Black Nurses Association, and a variety of nationally recognized experts. This town hall is open to anyone regardless of background or position in providing care. This national town hall will be broadcast by [blackdoctor.org](#) through its Facebook Live and Youtube streaming services. A link to these sites will be available later this week. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, March 4 -- 7:00-8:30 p.m. ET to take part in this important discussion. For more information, email [Joe Franco](#).

HUD Reviews Housing Counseling Resources for Multifamily Residents – Today, HUD's Office of Housing Counseling hosted a webinar to review housing counseling options for Multifamily Housing communities. Often thought of as providing counseling and supporting primarily to homeowners, the webinar discussed a variety of resources and supports for renter households, including for HUD Section 202 and other Multifamily Housing programs. By working directly with residents, Housing Counseling Agencies (HCAs) can help HUD-assisted multifamily communities retain a stable population and reduce unit turn-over. HCAs provide independent expert advice to directly residents to help improve housing stability, for example by creating household budgets, reestablishing contact between the housing provider and the resident, or helping with access to pandemic relief. More information about the webinar and HUD's Housing Counseling options is available [here](#).

LeadingAge Virtual Lobby Day 2021 – April 21. We are excited to announce that we will be holding our first ever Virtual Lobby day on our originally scheduled in-person lobby day this year. Given our success with our virtual congressional meetings last year, we know that our members will appreciate the opportunity to meet with their congressional offices and advocate for our key policy priorities and tell their stories. We will once again be utilizing the services of Advocacy Associates (they have managed our lobby day scheduling for the past 5 years) and they have an innovative way to manage the coordination and virtual schedules for our members. A more comprehensive memo will be coming from Joe very shortly but at this moment, please mark April 21 as a day for legislative meetings. Please also let Joe (JFranco@leadingage.org) know ASAP if you would prefer to schedule your own meetings instead of having us manage that process.