



Senior Housing Weekly

February 5, 2021

Housing Advisory Group call on Monday, February 8 at 12:30 p.m. ET. Monday's Housing Advisory Group call will include a discussion from a specialist on vaccine messaging, rescheduled from February 1. Advance questions are still welcome for our special guest, who will discuss strategies for building vaccine confidence at housing communities. We'll also discuss other key updates during the call. LeadingAge is continuing these regular Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. ET for affordable housing providers to hear the latest housing updates and discuss challenges and solutions with one another. If you haven't signed up for the group and would like to join the calls, contact [Juliana](#) or [Linda](#).

•**First LeadingAge HUD Oversight Workgroup meeting, February 11 at 1 p.m. ET.** Join LeadingAge for our first [HUD Oversight Workgroup](#) meeting to inform and respond to HUD's changes to physical inspections and file reviews in senior housing. In our first meeting on February 11 at 1 p.m. ET, we will focus on HUD's recent proposed rule, which sets in motion sweeping changes to physical inspections. Through workgroup discussions, LeadingAge is compiling public comments to the agency, which are due by March 15. LeadingAge's detailed overview of HUD's proposed inspection changes is available here: [Deep Dive: What's Next for HUD's Physical Inspection Overhaul](#). A back-up meeting has been scheduled for February 12 at 1:15pm ET for those who cannot make the February 11 call. To join, please reach out to jbilowich@leadingage.org.

HUD Outlines New Section 202 Funding, Answers Member Questions - On a February 2 call hosted by LeadingAge, HUD's Director of Recapitalization explained the details of the new Section 202 funding opportunity and answered questions from housing providers. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) from HUD makes \$150 million available for competition until May 26. During the call, HUD staff covered the basics of the funding Notice and explained categories of additional requirement documentation, application rating systems, and HUD's planned geographic distribution. More information, including HUD Q&A with members, HUD's presentation slides, and a recording of the call will be available [here](#).

Resident/Client Technology Guide. A new [Resident/Client Technology Support and Training](#) from the LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST), is intended to aid LeadingAge members and other aging services organizations in understanding the different support, training, and business models available for resident/client technology. Many technologies can help facilitate health and wellness, safety, social connectedness and engagement, lifelong learning, leisure and entertainment activities, and assistive devices for residents. The white paper covers two types of technology: resident/client technology owned by residents/clients and resident-facing or client-facing technology offered by aging services providers.

LeadingAge Calls for Rent Relief for Older Adults - As the Department of Treasury continues to roll-out its new \$25 billion Emergency Rental Assistance program, LeadingAge weighed in with urgent considerations for reaching older adults with low incomes. The ERA was approved by Congress at the

end of December and is designed to flow through local or state channels to help cover rent and utility arrears, as well as future rent and utility costs, for households struggling due to COVID-19. Landlords or property owners will be able to apply on behalf of residents, but eligibility for HUD-assisted households is still unclear. During a call with the Treasury Department, HUD, and the White House, LeadingAge urged the country's leaders to consider older adults, who may not have lost income during the pandemic but are still facing financial hardships. LeadingAge reiterated the concerns in a January 29th letter to the Administration. "In its current design, the program has the potential to leave out older adults who are in need of rent relief," reads the [letter](#). More information about LeadingAge's work to bring rent relief to senior housing communities will be available [here](#), and more information about the ERA is available [here](#).

Public Charge Rule. President Biden has directed his agency leads to assess the state of Trump Administration's public charge rule, which makes it more difficult for people in the country legally to attain permanent status if they've used a wide variety of public assistance programs. LeadingAge commented in opposition to the rule during its promulgation and is pleased President Biden has expressed his hope to reverse this rule. More is in this [article](#).

Retail Pharmacy Program Launched. The [federal government has launched](#) the first phase of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination. The program is being implemented incrementally based on the available vaccine supply, with select retail pharmacy locations providing COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. The CDC has posted the initial list of 6500 participating pharmacies, which also can be viewed by state. Eventually, more than 40,000 pharmacies will participate in the Retail Pharmacy Program.

Surge in Older Adult Renter Households. A new report from the Urban Institute predicts there will be 16.1 million new U.S. households formed between 2020 and 2040. Of these, 13.8 million will be older adult households. Of those, an astounding 40% are predicted to be older adult renter households. View the article [here](#).

HUD warns against COVID-19 scams at communities. In a joint presentation by HUD and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on February 3, the agencies warned of scams at housing communities related to the coronavirus. The presentation gave pointers about what real contact tracers will not ask residents or staff in order to trace contacts and possible COVID-19 exposure, including information about social security numbers, bank account information, or immigration status. Similarly, the presentation explained that residents will not be able to pay to receive the vaccine early, and should be cautious about requests or offers to do so. The presentation slides, which give an overview of fraud attempts and fraud protection posters for communities, is available [here](#).

Housing nominees advance in Senate. Two Senate Committees have voted this week to advance key housing agency leadership positions, including Congresswoman Marcia Fudge for HUD Secretary and former Secretary Tom Vilsack as Agriculture Secretary, which oversees rural housing programs. Next, the full Senate will vote to confirm Ms. Fudge and Mr. Vilsack, setting them up to take office as early the week of February 8. LeadingAge's [letter in support of the HUD nominee](#) details our top priorities for working with new agency leadership.

Senate power sharing agreement. Senator Schumer and Senator McConnell reached power sharing agreement for the 50-50 divided Senate. With Vice President Kamala Harris as the tie breaking vote, the Democrats take control of the chamber. Now that the power sharing agreement has been reached, they

can now officially assign senators to individual committees and new committee chairs and ranking members will be put in place. This critical first step allows us to be able to advocate with the new leadership in senate committees. All eyes are now on Congress as they work to figure out the next COVID-19 relief bill using a process called reconciliation. We are closely monitoring and advocating on this bill and will have updates soon. LeadingAge members can use their power to share their views about the need for reform with their members on the Hill, by responding to this [Action Alert](#) on the COVID relief we need now.

CDC Officially Extends Eviction Moratorium. Ahead of the January 31 expiration, the CDC has [ordered the extension of the current eviction moratorium](#) for non-payment of rent. The order prevents residential evictions until March 31; tenants have to self-certify eligibility for the protections. The extension keeps the moratorium largely unchanged, and tenants who previously submitted the self-certification should not have to resubmit. In the meantime, LeadingAge is advocating with the Administration to quickly [provide rent relief for senior housing communities impacted by COVID-19](#).

Weekly State Profile Report: The White House COVID-19 Team is publishing a [weekly State Profile Report \(SPR\)](#) which is generated by the Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup in the Joint Coordination Cell. The White House COVID-19 Team is managed by an interagency team with representatives from multiple agencies and offices (including the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and the Indian Health Service). The COVID-19 State Profile Report provides easily interpretable information on key indicators for a given state. It is a snapshot in time that focuses on recent COVID-19 outcomes in the last seven days and changes relative to the week prior; provides additional contextual information at the county and state levels; and supports rapid visual interpretation of results with color thresholds.

Addressing staff stressors and mental health. CDC released [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Prevalence of Stress and Worry, Mental Health Conditions, and Substance Use Among Adults During the Pandemic](#). We've summarized the data and provided ideas for how members can help support staff around the psychosocial stressors identified in this study (available [here](#)).