



## Senior Housing Weekly

March 19, 2021

**Monday, March 22, Housing Advisory Group Call.** Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. ET. On March 22, staff from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will join the Housing Advisory Group call to discuss the new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and how affordable housing communities and residents may be able to access discounted internet services and discounted connected devices during the pandemic. Advance questions for the FCC staff are still welcome. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

**CDC's "Fully Vaccinated" Recommendations and Affordable Housing.** Housing providers are eager to understand what CDC's March 8, Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People mean to them. HUD has not changed any of its policies. And, CDC's considerations for multifamily owners, updated on February 25, on their own do not point to any sea change for housing providers. For independent living settings like affordable senior housing, the March 8 CDC interim recommendations for fully vaccinated people do not propel a housing community to restructure its activities, services, and use of common spaces. And, the March 8 CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People are not to be confused with the March 10 CMS and CDC guidance for personnel, patients, and residents in healthcare settings regarding visitation and work restrictions for asymptomatic healthcare personnel, patients, and residents. This March 10 guidance is not applicable to independent living affordable senior housing communities. Read our article [here](#).

**LeadingAge 3:30 p.m. calls to feature discussions of isolation and the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.** Join us on Monday, March 22, at 3:30 p.m. ET for the latest policy updates and a conversation on a program to engage residents and alleviate the impacts of isolation. Amber Carroll, COVIA, will discuss the Well Connected program, which has attracted 80% of residents. On Wednesday, March 24, Sara Oliver, CDC, will join us to answer questions about the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and discuss what it might mean for aging services communities. The guest speaker for the Thursday, March 25, call will be announced soon. If you haven't registered for the calls, you can [join here](#).

**Bill Seeks \$5B for Affordable Housing Broadband.** On March 16, Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) and House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing Chair Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) introduced the Broadband Justice Act of 2021. The bill would provide \$5 billion to expand affordable broadband access to millions of families living in federally subsidized housing, including HUD, USDA Rural Housing Service, and Low Income Housing Tax Credit housing. For federally-subsidized housing, the bill includes the reasonable costs for broadband high-speed internet service as a utility. Funding to pay for the internet service would come in the form of "Connected Community" grants (for HUD and USDA housing) and loans (for LIHTC housing). An article on the bill is [here](#).

**HUD Secretary Issues First Public Address** - In her first [public address](#) since taking office, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge addressed agency staff in a video message posted on the HUD website. In the message, the new Secretary commits to building 1.5 million new homes to expand housing programs to everyone

eligible. The Secretary also promises a change in the agency's COVID-19 response, including continued safety precautions and better communication internally and externally. In her message, the Secretary discusses the agency's continued essential housing services, such as providing housing counseling, combatting housing discrimination, restoring the Housing First approach, ending homelessness, and supporting economic development. More information is available [here](#).

**LeadingAge Virtual Lobby Day is April 21!** [Register](#) by Friday, March 26, to guarantee scheduling with your lawmakers. Participation is free and entirely virtual, which means you can help advocate without even leaving your office. Once registered, you'll get a confirmation email with dates and times for the Lobby Day training and open office hours. More information is [here](#), and you can register directly [here](#).