



Senior Housing Weekly Update

March 5, 2021

Monday, March 8, Housing Advisory Group Call. Special Guest: Michael Hebb from the End of Life platform, and author of *Let's Talk About Death (Over Dinner)*, will join us for our March 8, 12:30 p.m. ET call. Michael will talk about resources for helping residents approach end of life planning, as well as navigating community partnerships for grief counseling. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

HUD Answers LeadingAge Member Questions on Service Coordination – In two calls with LeadingAge housing provider members the week of March 1, HUD staff at both the headquarters and the regional levels discussed Service Coordinator grant renewal guidance for 2021 and highlighted key dates and approaches for grantees. Under a streamlined approach, grantees can renew Service Coordination programs without submitting a full year budget, opting instead to receive a 1.3% cost of living adjustment from HUD; the condensed application period ends on March 22. During the LeadingAge calls, HUD staff also answered a [series of questions from members](#) about service coordination programs in HUD housing in general – more information is available [here](#).

White House Advisor on Housing Announced. On March 5, the White House formally announced the appointment of Erika Poethig as Special Assistant to the President for Housing and Urban Policy at the White House's Domestic Policy Council (DPC). LeadingAge looks forward to working with Ms. Poethig in her new role. Ms. Poethig brings a wealth of experience to this position, including at the Urban Institute and for HUD under the Obama Administration. The DPC coordinates the development and implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda in the White House and across the Federal government. The DPC is instrumental in working across agencies to foster solutions, potentially such as housing + services where HUD and HHS/CMS collaboration are key. An article is [here](#).

Rural Housing Service Clarifies Eligibility for Disaster-Displaced Residents – In a [policy clarification](#) in response to recent disasters in Texas, Rural Development's Multifamily Housing clarified that disaster-displaced residents with a displacement letter from either FEMA or Rural Development immediately jump to the top of the waiting list; multifamily housing communities can also request waivers for temporary exceptions to occupancy criteria to house displaced persons. The policy clarification applies to the disaster response in Texas and to other disasters in the future. HUD has not issued similar policy guidance in response to the storms in Texas, but previous disaster communications reiterated owner responsibilities under [Chapter 38](#) of the HUD Handbook.

Nonprofits Eligible for New \$30M Home Modification Program. On March 2, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a new program, the Older Adult Home Modification Program (OAHMP), to enable low income older adult homeowners to remain in their homes through low cost, low barrier, high impact home modifications to reduce older adults' risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and to improve their functional abilities in their home. The NOFA will provide grants to

experienced nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities to undertake this work. Applications are due May 4, 2021. See the [article here](#).

Vaccine hesitancy resources and help. LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls over the next few weeks will feature brief, one-minute segments on ways members can promote the successful vaccination of at least 75% of their workforce by June 30. We will cover developments in the news, research, and innovative practice that support our members in attaining high vaccination rates in your organizations. Progress towards our collective goal will be measured by both formal and informal means, including periodic member polls. The segments will be added once each week to our resources [here](#).

Ways and Means Announces Racial Equity Initiative. Today, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA) announced the creation of the Committee's Racial Equity Initiative (REI) and appointed Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL), Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA), and Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV) to lead the working group. The REI represents the next phase of the Committee's work to address the role of racism and other forms of discrimination in perpetuating health and economic inequalities in the United States. The creation of the REI follows a report, "[Something Must Change: Inequities in U.S. Policy and Society](#)," and framework, "[A Bold Vision for a Legislative Pathway Toward Health and Economic Equity](#)," that the Committee put out earlier this year highlighting the policy proposals and the pillars the Committee will focus on as it works to advance equity in this Congress and beyond. The full press release can be found [here](#).