



Senior Housing Weekly Update

March 12, 2021

Monday, March 15, Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. ET. On March 15, we'll discuss updates on vaccines, emergency rental assistance, broadband access in senior housing, physical inspections, and insurance premiums/other pandemic costs at communities. On March 22, members of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will join the Housing Advisory Group call as special guests to discuss the new Emergency Broadband Benefit and how affordable housing communities can access discounted internet services and discounted connected devices during the pandemic. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Act Now: Weigh in on HUD's Physical Inspection Overhaul: LeadingAge sent out an [action alert](#) to make it easy for LeadingAge members to comment on HUD's proposed overhaul of physical inspections. Comments are due to HUD by March 15 on the NSPIRE proposed rule, which would comprehensively update the way that HUD approaches physical inspections. The action alert takes members to a customizable template stating support for LeadingAge's comments; in order to be considered a unique comment to the agency, please add a few sentences about your community and any feedback you'd like to submit to HUD in addition to the content of our template. You can view our draft comments to the agency [here](#) (which will continue to be revised before March 15), as well as a detailed summary of the proposed rule [here](#). Additional feedback or questions should be sent to Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

Curious about how to get residents and staff in affordable independent living vaccinated? Check out the Monday, March 15 LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call, 3:30 PM Eastern Time. Tiffany Nicolette the Vice President of Housing and Services at CHAI in Baltimore, MD will join us to talk about how independent living residents were included in vaccine efforts with the state. She'll also discuss steps CHAI is taking to expand in person activities, now that residents and staff are increasingly being immunized. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge's COVID-19 Update calls (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 3:30pm ET), you can [join here](#).

President signs relief package. President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law – one of the largest stimulus plans in American history. LeadingAge posted two articles on the provisions of the bill that are especially important for LeadingAge members bill ([one general](#) and one specifically on [HCBS](#) and other provisions) and are gearing up to address how to help members access the funds in the bill that will go to state and local governments. Even with this relief package, aging services providers across the continuum need more help; we're looking ahead to the infrastructure bill and other measures currently under discussion.

Senate Confirms New HUD Secretary Fudge. The Senate voted to confirm Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH) as the next HUD Secretary. In a congratulatory letter to Secretary Fudge, LeadingAge President & CEO Katie Smith Sloan said, "We look forward to working with you to advocate for and carry out the

robust housing platform elucidated by President Joe Biden during his presidential campaign. This housing platform reflects solutions to older adults' need for affordable, accessible, and quality housing." Read the letter [here](#).

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](#).

Hearing on Racial Equity in Housing and Financial Services. The House Committee on Financial Services held a March 10 hearing on, "Justice for All: Achieving Racial Equity Through Fair Access to Housing and Financial Services." The hearing, which referenced more than twenty bills related to fair lending, discriminatory appraisals, and credit building, touched on access to capital, credit and financial services, fair housing and homeownership, and diversity in executive ranks and boards. Read more about the hearing [here](#).

Administration Will Not Defend New Public Charge Rule. On March 9, the Department of Homeland Security, on behalf of the U.S. government, announced it will no longer defend the Trump Administration's 2019 public charge rule. LeadingAge had opposed the Trump Administration's public charge rule and welcomes this policy change. "The 2019 public charge rule was not in keeping with our nation's values. It penalized those who access health benefits and other government services available to them. Consistent with the President's vision, we will continue to implement reforms that improve our legal immigration system," Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in a March 9 [statement](#).

Current Vaccination Statistics: As of today, more than 93 million Americans have received at least 1 dose; 60% of people over age 65 are vaccinated, and we are averaging 2 million shots per day.