



Senior Housing Weekly

April 16, 2021

As a reminder: we will not have our regular Housing Advisory Group call on Monday, April 19. Instead, you may wish to attend the CDC update call for independent living communities at noon ET on 4/19. Registration is required and further information is here:

You're invited to a session titled **COVID Vaccination & Infection Prevention for Retirement and Independent Living Communities**, scheduled for **April 19, at 12:00 p.m. ET**. This session is specifically for **managers of retirement and independent living communities**. The purpose of this session is to: 1. Provide information on COVID-19 vaccination of older adults and updates to infection prevention in the context of vaccination; 2. Share information from retirement and independent living communities about their challenges and strategies for managing COVID in the context of vaccination; and, 3. Provide a forum for discussing COVID-19 challenges in retirement/independent living communities. To participate, you must register to attend:

https://cdc.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltcuCgqjMiGsGmPrK48JBjyW_zA2XitBY

HUD Announces Third Round of CSP Funds. HUD has opened the third round of application submissions for affordable housing providers to apply for funds to offset COVID-19 costs. Properties can apply for reimbursements for certain COVID-19 expenses that occurred between December 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021, and the deadline to submit CSP requests to HUD is April 26. This new round of supplemental payments can cover PPE associated with conducting vaccination and testing events and temporary clinics at the property; and vehicle reimbursement for transportation associated with vaccination. More information is [here](#).

HUD Updates Section 202 NOFA FAQs. On April 15, HUD updated the Frequently Asked Questions associated with the Section 202 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA), applications for which are due May 26. Based on questions submitted, HUD has updated the FAQs. The new update includes questions on Opportunity Zones, the use of FHA-insured financing in the development of projects, Environmental Review contacts, Appraisals, Physical Design, and Income Restrictions. The new questions are numbered 4, 16, 17, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 61 in this [updated FAQ](#) on the [202 NOFA website](#). An article is [here](#).

CDC Weighs In on "Reopening" Risk in Independent Living. With vaccine distribution well underway across the country, affordable senior housing providers are navigating decisions around "reopening" or loosening restrictions at communities. The CDC has described the risk of COVID-19 spread in retirement communities and independent living based on various activities, and the CDC is seeking feedback on further information needed. More information is [here](#).

Fair Housing: HUD Action, Hill Hearing. An April 13 hearing on fair housing coincided with steps from HUD to reinstate fair housing rules undermined by the Trump Administration: affirmatively furthering fair housing and disparate impact. On April 12, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity submitted an interim final rule, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Restoring Statutory Definitions and Certifications, for review by the White House's Office of Management and Budget. The same day, HUD also submitted to OMB a proposed rule to reinstatement of HUD's Discriminatory Effects Standard, also referred to as the disparate impact rule. The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and disparate

impact rules were instituted by the Obama Administration to finally bring accountability and enforcement mechanisms to the 1968 Fair Housing Act. More on the HUD actions and the hearing can be found in this [article](#).

Draft House Bill: \$2.5 Billion for New Section 202 Homes. The House Financial Services Committee considered 17 bills as part of its hearing on housing infrastructure legislation on April 14, including a draft bill that would provide \$2.5 billion for the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program. The hearing, Build Back Better: Investing in Equitable and Affordable Housing Infrastructure, included consideration of both the Housing is Infrastructure Act of 2021 and the Broadband Justice Act of 2021, both of which reflect LeadingAge's goals in our [Blueprint for a Better Aging Infrastructure](#) to greatly expand the supply of affordable senior housing and to secure internet in every affordable senior housing home. Read the article [here](#).

Housing Credit Bills Introduced in Senate, House. Legislation to expand and improve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Housing Credit) was introduced in the Senate and House on April 15. The bills would increase Housing Credit allocation by 50% over current levels phased in over two years and make a long list of improvements to the Housing Credit. The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (AHCIA) also would allow states and their partners to produce and preserve more bond-financed developments by lowering the bond financing threshold from 50% to 25% and includes basis-boosts for harder-to-reach communities. All told, AHCIA's major unit financing provisions would provide for over 2 million additional affordable homes over the next ten years. The bill also includes a number of other modifications to make the Housing Credit an even better tool for meeting the needs of rural communities, veterans, older adults, Native Americans, and extremely low income families. More is in this [article](#).

House Hearing on FY22 HUD Funding. On April 21, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies will hold a hearing on HUD's fiscal year 2022 [budget request](#). As is customary, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge will be the hearing's sole witness. LeadingAge will share news from the hearing and anyone can watch the 2 p.m. ET hearing via the Appropriations Committee's website [here](#).

HUD to Host Panel Discussion on Housing and Services. On April 29, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research will host a panel discussion on "Services in HUD-Assisted Housing." According to HUD's announcement of the event, the event will look at how HUD programs can help families continue to have access to affordable housing, shifting away from a "sole focus on obtaining self-sufficiency." The event will also discuss how HUD-assisted households can grow savings and weather crises, reverse wealth-building inequities, improving housing choice, and meet personal goals. The free event will take place on Thursday, April 29, from 2-3:30pm ET. More information is [here](#).

Interview with Josh Sharfstein about Johnson & Johnson pause. On the April 15 LeadingAge 3:30 Update call, Josh Sharfstein, Vice Dean for Public Health Practice and Community Engagement at Johns Hopkins University and former Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Principal Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Commissioner of Health for Baltimore City, spoke about the J & J vaccine pause and the implications for aging services providers,

including those whose residents/patients have already received this vaccine. [Here's an article](#) summarizing the interview. In short, the decision was made out of an abundance of caution and older adults who have received the J & J vaccine probably “have other things that are more important to worry about.” Dr. Sharfstein has been interviewed widely in the media on this topic over the past few days.

FEMA Funeral Assistance: FEMA [began processing applications for funeral assistance](#) on April 12 and as of yesterday has received more than 56,000 funeral assistance applications. The agency is providing financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses that occurred after Jan. 20, 2020 and going forward. Please know there is no deadline to apply and applicants will have the ability to open a case. Applicants may apply by calling 844-684-6333 (TTY: 800-462-7585) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday. There is no deadline to apply. Multilingual services are available.

Check out our latest QuickCasts, free for LeadingAge members, on the Learning Hub:

[Improving Communication with Older LGBTQ+ Adults](#)

In this 10-minute QuickCast, Carey Candrian outlines how the way we talk, and listen can make a measurable difference in the care older LGBTQ+ adults receive and in their health outcomes.

[Fostering Emotional Wellbeing Among Team Members](#)

Is your organization doing enough to care for the psychological wellness of its staff? A comprehensive systems approach can help make sure your employees are getting the support they need. Learn what this means, and why it's so important for your organization during this 19-minute QuickCast that's free to LeadingAge members.