



Senior Housing Weekly Update

April 30, 2021

Monday, April 30, Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On May 3, we'll focus on HUD's new guidance on restarting physical inspections during COVID-19, and we'll also hear from a member about strategies to navigating rising insurance costs in affordable housing. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

HUD Details June Restart to Physical Inspections. On Thursday, HUD provided more information about their June [restart](#) to physical inspections for both regular UPCS and NSPIRE demonstration properties, including an [FAQ](#) document, a [flyer for residents](#) (HUD told LeadingAge they are working on translations of the flyer), a [memo to property owners](#), and an [inspector notice](#). The agency has notified owners who can expect an inspection this calendar year. HUD will not require inspectors to be vaccinated, but will require the inspectors to follow CDC guidelines for quarantining and testing if unvaccinated. Properties will receive both a 28-day and a 14-day notice, and HUD will require inspectors to wear face shields when inspecting senior housing properties. Our summary of the new protocol is available [here](#). Send advance questions for REAC staff, who will be joining an upcoming LeadingAge call, to Juliana at jbilowich@leadingage.org.

CDC to Host Call on Older Adult Vaccinations. CDC's Vaccine Taskforce is hosting the second in a series of sessions about COVID-19 vaccination of older adults. The call will take place on May 5, from 1-2:30pm ET. The session will provide updated information about older adult vaccination rates and what older adults can do when they are vaccinated; the session will also include a discussion about the strategies to overcome vaccine hesitancy and provide vaccine access for older persons in rural areas and among HUD-assisted residents. Register [here](#), and send advance questions for the CDC session related to HUD-assisted senior housing to jbilowich@leadingage.org.

What states are mandating immunizations or prohibiting employers from mandating them? The LeadingAge State Legislation Tracker now includes information about the four states that have passed legislation prohibiting employers from mandating COVID vaccines (AL, AR, MT, DC), the more than 20 whose legislatures have introduced legislation to prohibit employers from mandating vaccination, and the one state legislature considering a bill to mandate vaccination for healthcare employees (IL). You can follow progress on these bills in the [State Legislation Tracker](#).

FCC Announces May 12 Launch Date for Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced a May 12 launch date for the new Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. Eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved internet service provider; the EBB also enables households to receive a one-time discount off a connected device, but less than 10% of the participating internet service providers are currently offering hardware. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting <https://getemergencybroadband.org>. More info [here](#) or

reach out to Juliana at jbilowich@leadingage.org with questions about best applying the benefit to affordable housing communities.

Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People: CDC [updated their guidance for fully vaccinated people](#). The CDC now provides [guiding principles](#) for fully vaccinated people. Fully vaccinated people [no longer need to wear a mask outdoors](#), except in certain crowded settings and venues. CDC provides clarification that fully vaccinated workers no longer need to be restricted from work following an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic. Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings no longer need to quarantine following a known exposure. Fully vaccinated asymptomatic people without an exposure may be exempted from routine screening testing, if feasible. The CDC's guidance underscores that immunocompromised people need to consult their healthcare provider about these recommendations, even if fully vaccinated.

USDA Expands Nutrition Assistance for Seniors Amid Pandemic with ARP Funding: Today, the USDA is [increasing food assistance to low-income seniors](#) – a population that has been especially hard-hit by the pandemic – by providing nearly \$37 million in additional support to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). States and Tribal nations will receive the new funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act to serve additional seniors, in addition to up to \$2.6 million in administrative funds from a previous COVID relief bill.

American Families Plan. The White House released the “third leg” of the Build Back Better three-legged stool – the [American Families Plan](#) (the American Rescue Plan and the American Jobs Plan were the prior two components). Many of the provisions in the new plan would support members of the aging services workforce. For instance, the plan would offer:

- Two free years of community college for anyone.
- Subsidized tuition for students from families earning less than \$125,000 for four year Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions.
- Support for free universal pre-school for all three and four year olds.
- Affordable child care on a sliding scale.
- Support for caregiving through a 12 week paid family and medical leave benefit.

These provisions and others in the plan represent part of an investment in the aging services infrastructure by supporting the people who provide care.