



## Senior Housing Weekly Update

April 9, 2021

**Monday, April 12, Housing Advisory Group Call.** Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On April 12, we'll be joined by a guest speaker to discuss serving LGBTQ older adults in affordable housing; we'll also discuss the CDC's overview of risk related to reopening activities in independent living, our lobby day talking points, and the President's new budget request for housing programs. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

**Please Take the LeadingAge Quarterly Housing Survey.** It's time for our quarterly affordable housing survey! [Please fill out this 5-minute pulse check](#) on a number of issues, including insurance rates at affordable housing communities, COVID-19 vaccines, and operational challenges. The information we collect helps our advocacy with HUD and Congress determine the kinds of materials to produce for our housing members, and helps you understand how your peers are doing during the pandemic. [Please complete the survey](#) by Friday, April 23.

**POSTPONED - Special Member Dialogue Call with CDC on Guidance for Retirement Communities, Independent Living, and Affordable Housing.** At LeadingAge's request, CDC will host a special member call to discuss the [Considerations for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#). CDC leaders from the task forces that write this guidance and the vaccination guidance will be on-hand to provide updates and talk with retirement community and affordable housing independent living providers. This call is being rescheduled; more info soon.

**White House Asks Congress for 15% Increase to HUD Funding.** On April 9, the White House delivered its topline funding requests for fiscal year 2022 (FY22) to Senate and House appropriators. The topline request seeks a 15.1%, or \$9 billion, increase to HUD funding compared to fiscal year 2021 funding. The request includes \$180 million to support 2,000 units of new permanently affordable housing for older adults and persons with disabilities through the Section 202 and Section 811 program, respectively, but does not say how much the requested level for each program. The request seeks full contract renewal funding plus \$800 million across the HUD portfolio for modernization and rehabilitation. The request also seeks funding for 200,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers, a \$500 million increase to the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and a \$500 million increase for Homeless Assistance Grants to support more than 100,000 additional households, helping prevent and reduce homelessness. An article is [here](#).

**Vaccines, vaccines. Update calls next week on Monday and Thursday.** How can we reach homebound older adults and their caregivers with vaccines? Can other aging services providers help? What about improving the percent of home care and home health workers who are vaccinated (currently only 25%)? Join us on **Monday, April 12 at 3:30 PM ET** along with from Dr. Thomas Cornwell, Executive Chair of the Home Centered Care Institute as we tackle these questions. **On Thursday, April 14 at 3:30 ET** Ashley Kirzinger from the Kaiser Family Foundation will be here to talk about the findings from the [Washington Post – KFF survey of frontline healthcare workers](#). According to the survey half of LTC

frontline workers have had at least one dose and another 15% either have an appointment or are planning to be vaccinated. If you haven't registered for Update Calls and wish to, you can do so [here](#). **THERE WILL BE NO UPDATE CALL ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14. Instead, please join us for Lobby Day Training.**

**April 14 HUD Vaccine Confidence Webinar.** To help boost COVID-19 vaccine confidence, HUD is co-hosting a free webinar "Sleeves Up: Strategies for Promoting COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence" on Wednesday, April 14 with representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, Urban Strategies Inc., Ashé Cultural Arts Center, and La Familia Counseling Center of Sacramento. This webinar will focus on: COVID-19 vaccine myths and misinformation; barriers to COVID-19 vaccine access and administration for racial and ethnic minority populations; resources and tools that community partners can use to share COVID-19 vaccine information to improve awareness and promote use of the COVID-19 vaccines; engaging with trusted community members and leaders and recruiting community health workers to build trust and boost vaccine confidence; efforts to outreach and vaccinate underserved and hard-to-reach communities, including agricultural workers and public housing residents; and, funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Register for this webinar [here](#).

**FCC Posts Emergency Broadband Benefit Resources.** This week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) posted additional resources for the new Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), which provides a monthly discount on internet services for income qualifying households across the country. In addition to recently uploaded FAQs, the FCC has also posted a tool that allows partners and consumers to view by state or territory the providers that will be participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program; the list currently includes many of the country's biggest ISPs, as well as local and regional providers. Separately, the FCC announced an upcoming webinar on the new benefit; more info [here](#).

**HUD Posts Updated NSPIRE Standards, Seeks Feedback.** As HUD moves forward with its NSPIRE overhaul of physical inspections, the agency posted an updated set of draft building standards (V2.1) that will be evaluated during inspections under the new NSPIRE model. LeadingAge has identified several key standards updates in Version 2.1, including related to bathtubs and shower functionality, carbon monoxide detectors, exhaust ventilation, electrical components, and fire extinguishers. HUD is still welcoming informal comments on the draft standards; LeadingAge is compiling feedback on HUD's specific questions. More info [here](#).

**HUD Hosts Fair Housing Month Virtual Celebration.** To celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, HUD hosted a virtual celebration on April 7 featuring FHEO Acting Assistant Secretary Jeanine Worden and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge, among other speakers. In response to a question about what HUD's FHEO is doing to align with the President's goals on equity and diversity, Acting Assistant Secretary Worden answered that the department has to start by "dismantling" in order to "go in the right direction." During her recorded speech, Secretary Fudge described the origins of the Fair Housing Act and the importance of continuing the hard work of ensuring fair housing access for everyone. The virtual celebration also featured interviews with HUD employees and fair housing

programs across the country, including HUD's Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP). To view more information about HUD's Fair Housing Month celebrations, click [here](#).

**Ask Representatives to Sign Letter Supporting Section 202 Funding.** House Committee on Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) is circulating a sign-on letter to her House colleagues in support of strong rental assistance funding levels for several HUD programs, including Section 202 Housing for the Elderly and Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance. Once the signatures have been gathered, the letter will be sent to House majority and minority appropriators. Chairwoman Waters' letter urges appropriators to fully fund Section 8 PBRA renewals and to provide \$600 million for new Section 202 homes in FY22. This request mirrors LeadingAge's ask for \$600 million for new Section 202 homes in FY22. The deadline for Representatives to sign the letter is April 23. More information is in [this article](#).

**HUD Distributes Nearly \$5.7 Billion for Housing.** Within 48 hours during the week of April 5, HUD has announced dispersal of nearly \$5.7 billion to state and local governments for housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness or other people with low or extremely low incomes. On April 6, HUD announced the allocation of \$679.5 million to states from the national Housing Trust Fund. On April 8, HUD announced the allocation of nearly \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan funds through HUD's HOME program ("HOME-ARP" funds) to help communities across the country create affordable housing and services for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. See [this article](#) for more information.

**Integrated Pest Management Webinar.** HUD is promoting a free webinar on Integrated Pest Management geared toward multifamily housing. The webinar will provide an overview of cockroach management and will review various house mice topics. Register for the May 6, 2 p.m. ET, webinar [here](#).

**Webinars for HUD's Financial Capability Month.** Every Tuesday in April, HUD webinars will feature sessions on how you can help HUD-assisted residents access and manage their economic impact payments from March's American Rescue Plan. As part of HUD's Financial Capability Month, for follow webinars are offered: April 6, Financial Checking & Savings Accounts for HUD-Assisted Residents; April 13, Engaging with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Centers for Tax Prep / Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); April 20, Predatory Practices Impacting Elders and People with Disabilities; April 27, Engaging HUD-Assisted Residents in Financial Empowerment. To register for the webinars, visit [this link](#).

**Guidance for Older Adults:** CDC [updated their information for older adults](#). Risk for severe illness with COVID-19 increases with age, with older adults at highest risk. Certain medical conditions can also increase risk for severe illness. People at increased risk, and those who live or visit with them, need to take precautions to protect themselves from getting COVID-19.

**Vaccine Effectiveness:** We're getting more and more data on just how effective the vaccines are. Dr. Fauci recently cited two studies from the New England Journal of Medicine that found fully vaccinated care workers — healthcare workers on the frontlines had an extremely low infections rate, less than two-tenths of one percent, compared to unvaccinated healthcare workers who had considerably higher infection rates.

**Vaccination Rates Among Affordable Housing Staff:** During a national call with hundreds of LeadingAge members, affordable housing providers were polled on vaccine takeup among their staff: more than half (56%) said 80-100% of staff are vaccinated, with just around a quarter (24%) saying 40-60% were vaccinated; 15% reported of 60-80% of staff vaccinated. We look forward to hearing more success stories as we continue to aim for 75% of staff and residents in member communities being vaccinated by June 30.