



Senior Housing Weekly Update

June 17, 2021

Monday, June 21, Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On June 21, we'll check in on the work that our monthly affordable housing workgroups have been doing, including discussions on new physical inspection standards; expanding internet access in senior housing; and expanding services and service coordination at HUD-assisted communities. On Monday, June 28, we'll be joined by a special guest to discuss partnerships between affordable housing communities and hospice providers. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Upcoming COVID-19 Update Calls for the Continuum of Aging Services: Recruiting and retaining staff, and increasing vaccine confidence. On Monday, June 21, we'll talk with **Mark McNerney** of the state of Maine Center for Workforce Research and Information about labor and workforce data, tools for employers and more. What are the factors that are causing the labor shortages we are seeing across the country? Mark will discuss them. On Wednesday, June 23, we'll talk about FDA's recent approval of aducanamab, the new Alzheimer's drug with Tia Powell, geriatric psychiatrist and bioethicist, who Directs the Montefiore Einstein Center for Bioethics. What are the next steps that CMS has to take and what are the policy implications of those steps? Tia will help us take a look at these and other questions. Our calls take place on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30pm ET. If you haven't signed up yet, you can join the calls by [registering here](#).

Ask your Senators to Join Sign On Letter for Section 202 Housing. On June 11, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) circulated a "dear colleague" letter among all Senate offices, asking senators to join his letter to the Senate HUD appropriations subcommittee in support of \$600 million for new Section 202 homes in the fiscal year 2022 HUD appropriations bill, and for full renewal funding for Section 202 rental assistance contracts. Senator Menendez has been a long-time champion of the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program and has led a letter in support of robust funding for new Section 202 homes for several years. LeadingAge is thrilled that this letter urges appropriators to provide \$600 million for new Section 202 homes. In FY21, Congress provided \$52 million for new Section 202 homes. HUD has requested \$100 million for new Section 202 homes in FY22. LeadingAge's policy goals include a \$600 million ask for new Section 202 homes in the FY22 HUD appropriations bill. Housing advocates are urged to ask their U.S. Senate offices to join [Senator Menendez's letter](#) by June 22, the deadline to sign on. More in this [article](#).

HUD and HHS release a new COVID-19 vaccinations and testing toolkit. As part of HUD and HHS's ongoing collaboration to improve vaccine and testing access across HUD's affordable housing portfolio, including in affordable senior housing, the two agencies have released a new toolkit on COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. The toolkit includes various resources, including links related to building vaccine confidence, holding onsite vaccine clinics, and how area agencies on aging can help in vaccine

access. The toolkit also includes an interactive map to identify federally qualified health centers in close proximity to HUD-subsidized housing communities. More in this [article](#).

New Report Scans U.S. Housing Market. This week, the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University issued its annual report, *State of the Nation's Housing*. The report looks at the entirety of the U.S. housing market, from ownership to rental, homelessness to disaster-resilient housing, as well as how the COVID pandemic has impacted housing prices, occupancy rates, and single family and multifamily construction. Of interest to LeadingAge members are data on the share of the nation's housing stock that has three basic accessibility features (3.5%) and data on expanding wealth inequality in the U.S. Read an article [here](#).

LeadingAge Congratulates Secretary's Award Recipient National Church Residences Foundation. This week, HUD announced the 2021 winners of the Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic partnerships, including LeadingAge member National Church Residences Foundation. The awards recognize the partnership process and its impact as a community strategy to increase the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents across various American geographies. To learn more about the 2021 winners and their initiatives, visit www.huduser.gov/secaward/cof.

Elder justice legislation introduced in the Senate to protect seniors from financial fraud. LeadingAge has issued a press statement supporting *the Senior Financial Empowerment Act* reintroduced by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME). This bill helps ensure that seniors and their caregivers have access to critical information regarding financial abuse by centralizing services for consumer education and data on scams and fraud targeting seniors; improving reporting of financial scams; directing NIH to conduct scientific research on older adults' increased vulnerability to scams; and designating a National Senior Fraud Awareness Week. As Katie said in our release, "Many of LeadingAge's more than 5,000 mission-driven members have [taken a leadership role in addressing these issues](#) by building on their strong ties to families and communities of the older adults they serve. As a result of those efforts, we know that older adults will benefit tremendously from the activities and resources that would result from the Senior Financial Empowerment Act". Supporting this legislation will be folded into our ongoing advocacy with the Elder Justice Coalition to reauthorize the Elder Justice Act first passed in 2010.

Addressing recruitment by focusing on retention. [Here](#) is an article covering our interview on our June 16th Update Call with Mark Collins and Kelli Underhill of Presbyterian Homes (North Carolina). They offered extensive tips and tools as they described the process of creating a full time Director of Workforce Development and Retention position and how they moved from focusing on recruitment to focusing on retention.

Daily Activities and Going Out: CDC updated their [guidance on daily life](#) for fully vaccinated people. Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

State by State Face Mask Mandates – 14 states still have them in place. The latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allows people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to forgo masks in most public settings, indoors and out. Several States have modified their mask mandates to align with the federal guidelines while others have relaxed rules in most settings. *Fourteen* state governments require people to wear face coverings in most indoor public settings to curb the spread of COVID-19. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have mask orders in place. To date, 25 states that had mask orders covering the general public have mostly lifted them. *Eleven* states did not impose mask mandates at any point during the pandemic. [Here is where each state stands](#) on the use of face masks, as of June 14, 2021.