

Senior Housing Weekly

July 23, 2021

Monday, July 26, Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On July 26, our conversation will cover lots of ground: the latest CSP payments, updates on Service Coordinator funding, how the delta variant is impacting your reopening, and federal advocacy. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Discussion on vaccine as a condition of employment heats up. Check into Monday's Update Call. As vaccination rates continue to sputter across the country, more and more organizations are looking into making vaccines a condition of employment. Dr. Robin Jump will join us on **Monday, July 26 at 3:30 PM ET** to discuss the AMDA joint statement on recommending mandatory vaccines and will be available to talk about why we need to continue our concerted push to motivate staff to get vaccinated to protect those that we serve. If you haven't signed up for the Monday and Wednesday Update Calls yet, you can join the calls by [registering here](#).

DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 26. Affordable Housing Providers Asked to Complete Quarterly Survey. It's time for our quarterly affordable housing survey! Please fill out [this 5-minute pulse check](#) on a number of issues, including on accessibility features at affordable housing communities and operational challenges. The information we collect helps our advocacy with HUD and Congress, helps 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 COB Monday, July 26.

Physical Inspections Highlighted at HUD Hearing. At a wide-ranging hearing on HUD's FY22 funding and "housing is infrastructure" proposals, the House Financial Services Committee also considered the Tenant Empowerment Act and the HUD Inspection Oversight Act of 2021. Representative Ayanna Pressley, sponsor of the Tenant Empowerment Act, asked hearing witness HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge about the return of REAC physical inspections to HUD's portfolio. "The reason I demanded that inspections resume is that I believe in the dignity of the people who live in these places," Secretary Fudge said. Secretary Fudge said she's asked her staff for the 10 worst performing HUD-subsidized properties in each community and she expects each of these poor performers will be inspected within 30 days. Asked if she thinks it takes too long for issues to get resolved after a failed property inspection, Secretary Fudge said that there are procedures in place but that HUD has been somewhat lax about enforcing them but that practice is in the past. "If people cannot live decently, I don't want the owners to have taxpayer dollars," Secretary Fudge said. See the Committee's hearing information [here](#).

New Infrastructure Action Alert. On July 20, LeadingAge sent an action alert to all members urging them to take action and ensure that Congress includes our key programs as part of the infrastructure negotiations. Here's the summary:

Tell Congress: Include Investments for Older Adults and the Providers Who Serve Them

Congress has begun developing a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure investment package -- so NOW is the moment to make sure U.S. Representatives and Senators hear our voices!

The infrastructure package must include:

- \$400 billion for Home and Community-Based Services, including: sufficient funding to identify and serve older people who are eligible, increasing FMAP for HCBS by 10 points for 10 years, double investment in Older Americans Act supportive services, connecting HCBS and HUD-assisted units, incentivizing states to expand the PACE model, and investing in new models of care to support older adults in home and community.
- Enhanced federal investment in the LTSS workforce across the entire continuum of aging services, in order to support recruitment, training, advancement opportunities, and increased wages. Ensure equity in access to increased workforce funding across payment systems.
- \$7.5 billion for HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program to expand the supply of affordable senior housing, increase the number of Service Coordinators, and provide internet in these homes.
- Expansion of Medicare to include dental, hearing, and vision services.

Now is the time to act: send a message to your U.S. Representative and Senators today!

The alert is here: <https://mobilize4change.org/HrCcAjg>

Eviction Prevention Efforts Ramp Up. On July 21, the White House hosted a virtual convening to highlight the need for state and local governments to quickly administer emergency rental assistance and to develop plans to prevent evictions. Since December, Congress has provided to Treasury \$46 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance program. The program, ultimately administered by state and local governments, has been slow to reach renters and landlords in need. Meanwhile, the national eviction moratorium for nonpayment of rent is set to expire on July 31. In June, \$1.5 billion of ERA funds were delivered to eligible households and their landlords. To date, less than \$3 billion of the \$46 billion has been allocated. On July 28, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will debut a new look up tool that allows renters and landlords to find information on rental assistance in their area. The National Low Income Housing Coalition currently maintains a database of ERA [programs](#).

CHCDF letter on FY22, Infrastructure. On July 23, LeadingAge along with other members of the Steering Committee of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding sent a letter to House and Senate key leadership on the need for housing infrastructure investments as well as speedy enactment of the strongest possible fiscal year 2022 HUD appropriations bill. The Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding is a coalition of more than 70 national organizations working together for the highest possible housing and community development funding. LeadingAge is a longtime member of the Campaign's Steering Committee. Read the letter [here](#).

From HHS: More than 1.5 Million Children Lost a Primary or Secondary Caregiver Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. NIH [released a report that more than 1.5 million children lost a primary or secondary caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The analysis, which occurred originally in a study published

yesterday in *The Lancet* used mortality and fertility data to model rates of COVID-19-associated orphanhood (death of one or both parents) and deaths of custodial and co-residing grandparents (ages 60-84) from March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021, across 21 countries. This study was funded in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health. In the paper, “COVID-19-associated deaths” referred to the combination of deaths caused directly by COVID-19 and those caused indirectly by other associated causes, such as lockdowns, restrictions on gatherings and movement, decreased access or acceptability of health care and of treatment for chronic diseases.