



Senior Housing Weekly

August 12, 2022

Housing Network Call, August 15, 12:30 – 1:30pm ET. Join us on Monday, August 15, for our regular Housing Network call. We'll discuss action from LeadingAge on HUD's Service Coordinator grant payments. We'll also check in on various updates related to CSP payments, IWISH demonstration program agreements, internet connectivity, and a new "economic justice" agenda at HUD. Reach out to Juliana, jbilowich@leadingage.org with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network.

LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls Next Week. All calls are at 3:30 PM ET. Can providers really use TikTok for frontline staff training? And COVID data of all kinds – how can it help us with staffing and inform our thinking about how to support team members? On Monday, August 15, Teepa Snow will join the Update Call to talk about her Positive Approach to Care and her use of TikTok videos as training resources. We'll hear how providers have used the videos and some ways to support exhausted staff members. She'll also share her thoughts about the impact of the pandemic on people with brain change. **Ashley Kirzinger, Director of Survey Methodology at the Kaiser Family Foundation** will return to the LeadingAge Update Call on Wednesday, August 17. She will discuss new data KFF has collected on vaccines, the differential impact of the pandemic on different groups within the population and related equity issues, and talk about how analyses of the data can support aging services providers as they work to improve staff recruitment and retention. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#). Note that to access recordings of the calls you need a LeadingAge password. Any staff member of any LeadingAge member organization can set up a password to access previous calls and other "members only" content.

HUD Announces Further Service Coordinator Grant Payment Delays. Further delays have pushed HUD's annual calendar year Service Coordinator grant payments to September, resulting in disruptions in service to HUD-assisted older adults. About half of HUD-funded Service Coordinator programs are paid through an annual grant program, funded by Congress and administered by HUD, with a performance year that begins every January. For the second year in a row, grant payments to housing providers with Service Coordinator programs will be at least 9 months late on the calendar year. Once Notices of Award are received and accepted by the grantee at the housing property, HUD needs to take additional internal steps to make the funds available in its electronic funds system (eLOCCS), meaning housing providers may be left waiting until October to access the annual funding. LeadingAge is beyond frustrated with the continued funding delays and is calling on HUD and Congress to avoid continued and future delays in the grant administration. More information will be available [here](#).

HUD Begins Certification Process for Fourth Round CSP Funds. HUD's COVID-19 Supplemental Payment (CSP) team has let us know that they have begun sending out the certification form for capital projects approved under the fourth round of CSPs. HUD anticipates sending the form to all providers approved for capital expenses in the fourth round by the end of this week. Once the owners complete the forms (certifying completion of the capital projects approved for CSP reimbursement, including internet installation, backup generator installation, and HVAC upgrades at properties) and return them to HUD,

the agency will process the payments, with earliest payment dates anticipated in mid-September. No news yet on round 5 of the CSPs!

HUD Begins Issuing Much-Delayed IWISH Cooperative Agreements. After a long and disruptive wait, we have heard from a number of LeadingAge members participating in HUD's IWISH demonstration program that they have received their IWISH cooperative agreements from HUD with a date range of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023! After an extension for the demonstration was approved and funded by Congress, HUD delays in executing the program extension have caused confusion, layoffs, and other harmful disruptions at participating communities. LeadingAge fought to protect the program, including advocating with HUD for retroactive agreements that cover program costs for the time period between when the demonstration extension was approved by Congress and HUD's administration of the new agreements. If you are a participating site and haven't yet received your new cooperative agreements, we would recommend reaching out to your grant specialist to inquire. Please reach out to Juliana Bilowich (jbilowich@leadingage.org) to let us know if you haven't received the agreements by the end of the week so that we can help track the agreement down for you with HUD.

HUD's demonstration tests the Integrated Wellness in Supportive Housing model, which funds a full-time Resident Wellness Director and part-time Wellness Nurse to work in a small number of HUD-assisted senior housing communities. The goal of the demonstration is to leverage HUD-assisted properties as a platform for the coordination and delivery of services to better address the interdependent health and supportive service needs of its older residents

CSP Eligibility for Back-Up Generators in HUD-Assisted Senior Housing. LeadingAge has updated a resource document to help housing providers prepare to take advantage of back-up generator installation reimbursement through the next round of HUD COVID-19 Supplemental Payments (CSPs), expected later this summer or fall. In 2021, HUD expanded the CSP eligibility categories to include back-up generators so that older adults are able to shelter in place during an emergency, rather than go to a group shelter where they may be exposed to COVID-19. More information about the updated two-page resource document, titled "CSP Eligibility: Making the Case for Back-Up Generators in HUD-Assisted Senior Housing," will be available [here](#).

Deep Dive: LeadingAge's NSPIRE Comments to HUD Balance Support with Calls for Feasibility. In recent comments to HUD, LeadingAge urged the agency to develop a robust physical inspection oversight mechanism that can be operationally implemented by housing providers through HUD's new NSPIRE property inspection protocol. LeadingAge balanced full support for measures that provide the highest quality housing for older adults with caution regarding infeasible new physical inspection standards at federally-assisted properties. In June, HUD had proposed the development of new NSPIRE standards, including banning certain types of space heaters, monitoring the indoor unit temperature at HUD-assisted properties, and inspecting the drinking water quality in HUD housing. As the agency transitions from REAC's current UPCS protocol to NSPIRE, LeadingAge will continue to work with members to provide the highest quality of housing for older adult households with low incomes, and with HUD to provide consistent and fair oversight. A deep dive of LeadingAge's NSPIRE comments to HUD will be available [here](#).

New COVID Community Guidance. CDC released updated COVID guidance for community settings. Guidance updates are based on this [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (see more info below). The new guidance does not apply to healthcare settings, though we are told we are getting closer to seeing updates for healthcare settings too. There has been confusion in the past about which guidance

different LeadingAge member settings should follow. Nursing homes (including residents, staff, and visitors) will continue to follow the healthcare settings guidance. CDC is currently in discussion about which guidance other settings, such as assisted living, should follow. CDC has NOT updated the [Multifamily Housing webpage for COVID-19](#) since May of 2021, but the site states that CDC is reviewing the page to align with updated guidance.

- **Summary of Guidance for Minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Individual Persons, Communities, and Health Care Systems.** CDC [published an MMWR on guidance for minimizing the impact of COVID-19 on individual persons, communities, and health care systems](#). High levels of immunity and availability of effective COVID-19 prevention and management tools have reduced the risk for medically significant illness and death. To prevent medically significant COVID-19 illness and death, persons must understand their risk, take steps to protect themselves and others with vaccines, therapeutics, and nonpharmaceutical interventions when needed, receive testing and wear masks when exposed, receive testing if symptomatic, and isolate for ≥ 5 days if infected. Medically significant illness, death, and health care system strain can be reduced through vaccination and therapeutics to prevent severe illness, complemented by use of multiple prevention methods to reduce exposure risk and an emphasis on protecting persons at high risk for severe illness.
- **COVID-19 Self-Test Data: Challenges and Opportunities.** CDC [published an MMWR on COVID-19 Self-test data](#). COVID-19 self-test use has increased but reporting of results is not required. During October 31, 2021 to June 11, 2022, 10.7 million test results were voluntarily reported by users of four manufacturers' self-tests; during that period, 361.9 million laboratory-based and point-of-care test results were reported. Completeness of reporting demographic variables and trends in percent positivity were similar across test types. Self-tests are a valuable risk-reduction tool that can guide individual actions, but they currently offer limited utility in enhancing public health surveillance. Laboratory-based and point-of-care test result data, in combination with other COVID-19 surveillance information, continue to provide strong situational awareness.

50-State Review of Access to State Medicaid Program Information for People with Limited English Proficiency and/or Disabilities ahead of PHE unwinding. This KFF [issue brief](#) reviews the accessibility of information for people with LEP and people with disabilities provided through state Medicaid websites and call center automated phone trees as of June 16, 2022. The analysis shows that while states have taken some steps to support access to information and applications for people with LEP and people with disabilities, gaps in accessibility remain.

New Report Released “Direct Care Workers Count: Why Data Matters to Advance Workforce Equity.” The Center for Advancing Racial Equity and Job Quality in Long Term Care released a new report on the role of data in advancing workforce equity for the direct care workforce. The report makes a number of recommendations, some of which are underway and some which need to be acted upon. The recommendations are:

- Create a federal standard dataset of direct care workforce data which sets a “floor” for states to build upon;
- Coordinate the national data collection effort;
- Appropriate designated federal funds to equitable data collection and system maintenance
- Collect robust demographic data in standardized categories and disaggregate the federal standard dataset to facilitate cross-referencing and equity assessments;

- Mandate meaningful worker engagement and participatory, community-led data collection, and utilize a Black Women Best model and “data feminism” framework; and
- Center workers in their own words by designing and implementing the first national worker-centered survey of direct care workers.

The full report can be found [here](#).

LeadingAge Seeks Feedback as HUD Takes Steps on Next Iteration of PBCAs. On July 27, after years in the making, HUD took public steps to develop a new solicitation for Project-Based Contract Administrator (PBCA) contracts, to be renamed Housing Assistance Payment Contract Support Services (HAPPS). HUD’s new draft solicitation describes how it would procure new contractors to provide Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract support services to HUD and service project-based rental assistance contracts. PBCAs are typically responsible for conducting on-site management reviews of assisted properties; adjusting contract rents; and reviewing, processing, and paying monthly vouchers submitted by owners. There are currently 53 PBCAs; the draft solicitation contemplates 15 HAPPS contractors (three for each of HUD’s five multifamily regions). Access the new draft solicitation and read an article [here](#); please send feedback for HUD on the proposal to Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org) by August 24th.

Generations United Hosts “Reimagining Intergenerational Housing” Webinar. Join [Generations United](#) and [Nesterly](#) for a webinar on August 23, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. EDT exploring the emerging continuum of intergenerational living approaches, including home sharing, and how communities and organizations can help advance them. Presenters will include Donna Butts of Generations United and Noelle Marcus of Nesterly. Register today: <https://www.gu.org/events/webinar-reimagining-intergenerational-housing/>

Register for LeadingAge Annual Meeting; Early Bird Pricing Ends August 18. In just a couple months, LeadingAge members will come together in Denver for [four days of strategic discussions, education, and networking](#) focused on the long-term growth of the field—and on strengthening ourselves as aging services professionals. From October 16-19, we’ll hear from thought leaders across our field, focusing on key topics for affordable housing providers, such as:

- Redeveloping Affordable Housing Against All Odds
- Section 202 Awards: Lessons from Successful Applicants
- The Evolution of Service Coordination
- Affordable Housing: Policy and Operations Update
- Housing-Based Services: Impact on Health and Well-Being
- Asset Management in Affordable Senior Housing
- How Can Affordable Housing Promote Digital Inclusion?
- Bringing Technology to Affordable Housing through Partnerships
- J.J. Carroll: A Case Study of Housing and Healthcare Integration
- It Takes a Village to Build Staff Morale

The full education program is available [here](#). There are several opportunities for site visits, including to Eaton Senior Communities, and Daily Huddles for affordable housing providers. [Register today to join us at the Annual Meeting + EXPO](#). Early bird pricing ends August 18, so make sure you register soon!