

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

August 14, 2020

COVID-19 Supplemental Payment Requests – Authorized Signatures Required – Housing provider reimbursement requests for COVID-19 expenses under the CARES Act were due to HUD on August 5th; HUD has granted additional time for providers to resubmit their previously submitted request forms, if the original submission was not signed by the owner or owner agent with legal authority to commit the owner to the terms of the CARES Act distributions (usually authorized through a board resolution or other means.) Reach out to Juliana for more information or assistance.

REAC Memo on Restarting Inspections; Prioritization “Heat Map” – On August 7th, HUD [announced](#) that the agency will resume Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspections of HUD multifamily and public housing properties in early October. HUD had halted physical inspections on March 13th due to health concerns; the agency said it will utilize strict safety protocols to restart operations. According to HUD’s [press release](#), standard 14-day physical inspection notifications to owners will resume no earlier than September 21st, 2020, with the first inspections resuming on or about Monday, October 5th. Inspections will be prioritized based on a state or locality’s COVID-19 rates, as well as on the property’s previous scores, but will exclude senior housing communities in initial return to operations. On August 10th, REAC released a [memo on its plans to return to operations](#); HUD also developed a [“heat map”](#) based on an area’s risk level (if you click the map, you’ll see an excel spreadsheet with more detail).

Housing Advisory Group calls on Physical Inspections, Fair Housing – Join us on August 17th at 12:30 pm EST for a special edition of the Housing Advisory Group call with HUD’s NSPIRE Program Manager, Dan Williams. Dan will provide updates from this [PowerPoint](#) and address advance member questions. The following Monday, August 24th, we’ll hear from a Fair Housing expert about challenges for the new pandemic-era in senior housing (advance questions welcome). Both calls are part of our weekly Housing Advisory Group series at 12:30 pm EST; during the calls, members have the chance to hear updates and discuss issues or solutions with other members. Email Juliana to join the Housing Advisory Group.

Congressional Update and White House Executive Actions. Last week the negotiations between the White House and Democrats on the fifth coronavirus bill that we have been advocating for fizzled. The President then issued several “Executive Orders” (formally “memoranda”) responding to provisions that had expired, including one on the lapsed evictions moratorium: [Executive Order on Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners](#). This order replaces the moratorium on evictions that expired with a directive to CDC and the Secretary of HHS to “consider whether any measures temporarily halting evictions of tenants for failure to pay rent are reasonably necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from one State to another.” The Secs. of Treasury and HUD are directed to identify federal funds to provide temporary assistance to renters and may include providing assistance to landlords including affordable housing owners and public housing authorities. There is no timeline on implementing the order. We are urging Congress and the Administration to take quick action to protect renters and support housing providers.

Letter to Congress on the next relief package – On August 11th, Katie Sloan sent a [letter to all congressional offices](#) stating our disappointment with Congress' decision to leave town without negotiating a deal on critical coronavirus relief legislation. Furthermore, the Executive Orders issued by President Trump responding to expired coronavirus provisions do not address these essential needs. LeadingAge members are stepping up to act for older adults every day. We are imploring Congress to step up and act as well. We are continuing our advocacy efforts with outreach to the Administration, Congressional leaders and the media to highlight these concerns and ensure that we must provide relief now.

Action Alert for Housing Relief – On August 13th, we sent all members of LeadingAge an action alert to urge Congress to come back to work and provide real relief to aging services and housing providers. Our action alert requests further financial relief for housing providers, paired with meaningful evictions protections. LeadingAge members can help amplify our message by reaching out to elected officials; send a message in a few clicks here: <https://actnow.io/3rWqkKH>.

Monday Coronavirus Update Call will feature David Grabowski – David Grabowski, Professor of Health Care Policy at the Harvard Medical School will join us for the LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call on Monday, August 17 at 3:30 PM Eastern. David has been a frequent commenter on the issues faced by aging services providers during the pandemic. In recent months he has testified before both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee on the COVID-19 nursing home crisis. He'll talk about his research and his observations on the impact of the crisis and his thoughts about how providers can weather the coming months. Anyone not already signed up for LeadingAge's twice weekly COVID-19 update calls, which span the continuum of aging services, can sign up [here](#).