

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

August 21, 2020

LeadingAge responds to Executive Order on evictions – On August 19th, LeadingAge sent a letter to several federal agencies urging quick action in support of low-income residents and housing providers impacted by the crisis. The President’s recently issued executive order does not extend the expired eviction moratorium; instead, the order asks federal agencies to determine the role of preventing evictions in containing COVID-19, and to identify existing funds for temporary housing assistance. In response, LeadingAge sent a [letter](#) to the agencies addressed in the executive order, asking for the CDC to urgently clarify the importance of housing stability during the pandemic, and asking HUD to immediately issue evictions protections while providing financial support for housing providers. The letter builds on our [statement](#) released on August 17th, together with several other major housing organizations, asking Congress and the Administration to provide meaningful support for impacted housing communities.

“Skinny” relief bill in the Senate - On August 18th, the Senate released a draft COVID-19 relief bill called the “Delivering Immediate Relief to America’s Families, Schools, and Small Businesses Act.” Nicknamed a “skinny” bill, it includes only some of the previously introduced [HEALS](#) provisions and comes in at a price tag of about 500 billion dollars, significantly lower than the House-proposed relief bill. The liability and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provisions remain unchanged, and the bill includes the same language to allocate \$16 billion dollars for states for testing, contact tracing, and surveillance and \$20 billion for vaccine, therapeutic, and diagnostic development. However, this bill overall contains even fewer of LeadingAge’s priorities; notably missing from this package are housing relief funds, as well as nursing home specific provisions. We will continue to advocate for a package that addresses the needs of aging services providers across the continuum, including housing providers and residents.

COVID-19 Supplemental Payment Requests: Late Submission not Accepted – Housing provider reimbursement requests for COVID-19 expenses under the CARES Act were due to HUD on August 5th, with late submissions accepted by the agency until August 12th. HUD stated that they cannot accept requests submitted later than August 12th for the CSP requests. HUD was able to temporarily grant additional time (until August 17th) 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. In the meantime, LeadingAge is working with Congress to provide further relief funds.

Fair Housing issues during COVID-19 – Join us for this special edition of the LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group, featuring fair housing and compliance expert Heather Staggs. Based on questions from our senior housing provider members, we’ll curate a conversation about fair housing issues to consider in the pandemic era. With an eye toward resident wellbeing and provider support, we’ll cover considerations for visitation and limited access policies, adapted move-in procedures, and mask requirements in common areas; we’ll also discuss reasonable accommodations for COVID-19 and communications to residents while respecting privacy rights, as well as COVID-19 stigma for staff and residents. This members-only call

is part of our weekly Housing Advisory Group series, where affordable senior housing providers hear updates and discuss issues with peers from across the country. Email Juliana at jbilowich@leadingage.org to join the Advisory group or to submit advance questions for Heather.

HUD Newsletter, Housing Advisory Group call on NSPIRE – On August 17th, LeadingAge hosted a call featuring HUD NSPIRE program manager Dan Williams about next steps for the demonstration program. During the call, HUD staff shared updates from a [powerpoint](#) presentation and addressed questions from LeadingAge members. A recording of the call is available [here](#). The agency recently released a new set of standards for its current physical inspection pilot program; the new inspection model will eventually replace the current UPCS standards. HUD told LeadingAge members that the agency is still targeting late 2021 for implementation of the new standards for the rest of the portfolio, and NSPIRE is still accepting properties into the demonstration program. To address continued member questions, we will be hosting smaller, follow-up calls with Dan – let Juliana know if you are interested. More information is available [here](#), and HUD’s “Get NSPIREd August 2020” newsletter is available [here](#).

Dr. Monica Gandhi to join LeadingAge Call – We will host Dr. Monica Gandhi on the LeadingAge COVID-19 update call on August 24th at 3:30pm EST. Dr. Gandhi is an infectious disease specialist at the University of California, San Francisco. She has appeared in numerous mainstream national media outlets and publications in recent months. Her research focuses on asymptomatic COVID and viral load. She has been widely cited for her work on aerosol vs. droplet transmission; she promotes mask wearing to protect both the wearer and others. She will talk about these issues and other COVID-related concerns for aging services providers. 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](#).

ACL Webinar on Engaging Older Adults during COVID. The Administration on Community Living will offer a webinar, “Successful Approaches to Creatively Engage with Older Adults during COVID-19” on Tuesday, August 25 at 3:00 PM, Eastern. The webinar will feature TimeSlips and speakers will discuss how this approach to creative engagement has been adapted to work during the pandemic. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).