



Senior Housing Weekly

August 26, 2022

Housing Network Call, August 22, 12:30 – 1:30pm ET. Join us on Monday, August 29, for our regular Housing Network call. We'll share the latest on LeadingAge's advocacy with HUD on Service Coordinator grant funding. We'll also discuss partnerships with community health clinics and check in on vaccine needs at affordable senior housing communities. Reach out to Juliana, jbilowich@leadingage.org, or Linda, lcouch@leadingage.org, with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network.

LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls Next Week. Monday, August 29, 3:30 PM ET - Ben Oseroff, co-author of a study on homebound Americans will join us on Monday to discuss his profile of homebound older adults, their needs and ways to address them. **On Wednesday, August 31, at 3:30 PM ET, hear from David Putrino, Director of Rehabilitation Innovation for the Mt Sinai Health System**, and an Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai, who will talk about the dangers of working while having COVID. 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.

LeadingAge Urges HUD Secretary to End Service Coordinator Funding Delays. This week, LeadingAge and the American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC) sent a letter urging HUD to immediately release authorized funding for HUD's Service Coordination program. The letter outlines immediate steps the agency can take to improve program administration now and in the future, as HUD-assisted housing providers across the country are forced to disrupt services to the hundreds of thousands of low-income older adults they serve. For the second year in a row, the annual grant payments will be at least 9 months late to housing providers. The letter outlines the harm done by the major delays in grant funding and urges the HUD Secretary to increase IT and staffing capacity to better administer the Service Coordinator program, among other steps. More information is available [here](#).

HUD Extends Deadline to Comment on PBCA Rebid Draft Contracts. On August 24 HUD extended the comment period on the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract support services draft solicitation until 4 PM ET September 28, 2022. The original deadline was the end of August, and LeadingAge had previously joined a coalition letter urging HUD to extend the deadline. After years in the making, HUD recently 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. More information is available [here](#).

IRA Provides Billions for Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency, Resiliency. The new Inflation Reduction Act includes significant investments to address climate change in affordable housing. The Act, signed

into law on August 16 by President Biden, includes funds that can be used improve the energy efficiency and climate resiliency of affordable multifamily housing, including multifamily subsidized by HUD and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The Act includes \$1 billion for HUD's multifamily housing programs, including for owners and operators of Section 8, Section 202, and Section 236 properties, to improve energy or water efficiency, indoor air quality or sustainability; implement the use of low-emission technologies, materials, or processes, including zero-emission electricity generation, energy storage or building electrification; address climate resilience; and for energy and water benchmarking. For information on additional provisions in the Act and an analysis by the National Housing Trust of the new resources, see this [article](#).

LeadingAge Call with FCC to Examine Internet Options for HUD-Assisted Communities. On September 1 at 1:00 PM ET, LeadingAge will host a call with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to examine internet connectivity options for HUD-assisted communities. The call will take place as part of LeadingAge's regular monthly "Internet Connectivity in Affordable Senior Housing" workgroup and will feature staff from the FCC Commissioner's office. The FCC is the federal entity overseeing communications efforts for the country, including a now-permanent pandemic-era program to reduce the monthly cost of internet service for income-qualifying households, called the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). LeadingAge has been advocating with FCC to adjust the program to align better with the HUD-assisted portfolio; in early August, FCC voted to take significant steps to increasing ACP enrollment among residents receiving federal rental assistance, including a new data matching agreement with HUD and a new outreach program directed at HUD-assisted residents. Register for the working group call at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcuioRT8tGtKImqH-4oo7SRZLTMq3Sa6P>, and send advance questions to Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

Vaccine Planning for the Fall. On August 16th, CDC released the [CDC Fall COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide](#) on the [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance](#) webpage. This operational planning guide includes details about the anticipated bivalent COVID-19 booster.

Congress Considers Strategies To Improve Medicare And Medicaid Integration For Dual-Eligible Individuals. At the end of July, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced [legislation](#) to create a new state option to fully integrate the financing and delivery of care for individuals eligible for full Medicaid and Medicare benefits. This legislation is among the most ambitious of a number of bills introduced this session that seek to improve Medicare and Medicaid integration for dual-eligible individuals. Health Affairs, in this [article](#), highlights the Portman-Brown bill and other recent legislative proposals related to integrated care for dual-eligible individuals, including support for states in undertaking planning and activities to improve the coordination of care, opportunities to expand the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and a proposal to create a federal structure for Medicare premium and cost-sharing subsidies for low-income individuals.

Unwinding the Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Provision: Projected Enrollment Effects and Policy Approaches: This ASPE [report](#) provides current HHS projections of the number of individuals predicted to lose Medicaid coverage at the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) due to a change in eligibility or due to administrative churning. The report also predicts eligibility for alternative insurance coverage among those predicted to lose Medicaid eligibility and highlights legislative and administrative actions that can help minimize disruptions in coverage, including the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides enhanced Marketplace subsidies for 3 years that will benefit some individuals leaving Medicaid at the end of the PHE.

Taking Public Health Action for Family Caregivers Webinar. The National Alliance for Caregiving and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors will host a webinar, *Taking Public Health Action for Family Caregivers*, to share insights into caregiving issues relevant to public health and outline actions public health professionals can take to protect the health of family caregivers. This webinar will also act as a release for their new report, *Chronic Disease Family Caregiving Through a Public Health Lens: The Framework for Family Caregiving and Public Health*. This webinar will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 from 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m ET. [Click here](#) to register.

Webinar: Ending Homelessness. On Monday, August 29, from 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET, the HUD/HHS Housing and Services Resources center will host a webinar, *Developing Partnerships Between HUD Continuums of Care and Disability, Aging, and Health Services Providers*. Homelessness is increasing in communities across the country – and the people experiencing it are disproportionately people with disabilities and older adults. Through its Continuum of Care (CoC) program, HUD provides funding for efforts by nonprofit organizations, states and tribes, and local governments to quickly re-house people experiencing homelessness. This webinar will orient participants to CoC structures and cross-sector partnerships that address the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Participants also will hear first-hand the benefits of these partnerships, from two community-based organizations (including an aging services organization), that are members of their local CoCs. [Register for the webinar.](#)

Study Finds Discrimination Barrier to Advance Care Planning for Sexual, Gender

Minorities. [Investigators](#) at the University of Colorado School of Medicine utilized the Advance Care Planning Engagement Survey to capture experiences of discrimination within sexual and gender minority (SGM) adults. Results found most SGM participants already talked to someone about their end-of-life wishes or were planning to do so, but further interviews found those conversations occurred outside the clinical setting. Those who did not have or plan to have these conversations did not feel they were necessary or felt discriminated against. Researchers recommended health systems could support clinician sensitivity training including guidance on documentation and requirements.

Register for LeadingAge Annual Meeting to see Abby Wambach as keynote address! 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](#).