

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

August 28, 2020

Monday, August 31, 3:30 Coronavirus Update Call: Natural Disasters and COVID-19 – Is your community concerned about navigating the pandemic and a natural disaster at the same time? Join our Coronavirus Call on Monday, August 31, at 3:30pm Eastern time and hear from LeadingAge member Catherine Evans, Executive Director of Lesley Senior Communities in the Bay Area, who has helped her residents prepare for wildfire evacuation as the fires closed in. You'll also hear from Meghan Rose with LeadingAge California about Red Cross and FEMA updates for all aging service providers. Both guest speakers will share insights from the frontlines of disaster response during COVID-19, and take a look at how to keep your communities prepared and healthy during a dual emergency. If you aren't already registered for our calls, sign up for calls [here](#).

LeadingAge members respond to natural disasters during COVID-19 - With wildfire and hurricane season off to a strong start, affordable housing providers are facing a daunting task: respond to two emergencies at the same time. For senior housing, home- and community-based services, and other LeadingAge provider members, this has meant readying residents and staff for an evacuation while taking COVID-19 precautions. We'll be updating this [webpage](#) with updates about disaster recovery for housing providers; always visit [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov) for the most up-to-date information on disasters in your area. You can also view our recent article on HUD and CDC disaster preparedness during a pandemic.

FHA extends evictions protections for home owners; renters not protected – On August 28th, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced the third extension of its [foreclosure and eviction moratorium](#) through December 31, 2020, for homeowners with FHA-insured single family mortgages covered under the CARES Act. The moratorium applies only to single family mortgages; HUD did not issue evictions protections for renters, including for low income residents of HUD-subsidized housing. LeadingAge recently sent a [letter](#) 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.

Advocacy Guide: Making your voice heard safely during COVID-19 – This week, LeadingAge released a COVID-19 advocacy guide for members interested in connecting with lawmakers safely. With the next COVID-19 relief bill hanging in the balance, and the end of the federal fiscal year right around the corner, lawmakers want to hear from constituents more than ever. The guide includes tips for virtual meetings, cell phone property tours, social media posts, and remote resident meet-and-greets. The guide is available [here](#); for more information or assistance getting started with advocacy during COVID-19, email Joe Franco at jfranco@leadingage.org.

Fair Housing issues during COVID-19 – On August 24th, we held a 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, Heather covered considerations for visitation and limited access policies, adapted move-in procedures, and mask requirements in common areas; she also discussed reasonable accommodations for COVID-19 and communications to residents while respecting privacy rights, as well as COVID-19 stigma for staff and residents. A summary of the call is available [here](#); this members-only call was 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 join future calls.

HUD NSPIRE Follow-Up Call – 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](#). **To address continued member questions, we will be hosting smaller, follow-up calls with HUD staff – let Juliana know if you are interested.** More information about the NSPIRE program is available [here](#), and HUD’s “Get NSPIREd August 2020” newsletter is available [here](#).