



## Senior Housing Weekly

September 16, 2022

**HEADS UP! Next quarterly survey of LeadingAge housing providers is coming the week of September 19!** Watch for it, respond, and get ready for great data to inform our shared goals! Thank you in advance!

**LeadingAge Housing Network Call, September 19, 12:30 – 1:30pm ET.** Join us on Monday, September 19, for our regular Housing Network call. Reach out to Juliana, [jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org), or Linda, [lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org), with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network.

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call Next Week.** COVID-19 has changed the way we think about helping those we serve on the journey to end of life and how advance planning and discussions can improve quality of care. While these are tough conversations to have, they can have a tremendous impact on how those we care for get the best care in their final time of need. On **Monday, September 19, at 3:30pm ET, Brynn Bowman, President and CEO, Center to Advance Palliative Care**, will join us to provide lessons learned from COVID and tools to help deliver palliative and end of life care. 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.

**Updated list of "sessions of particular interest" to affordable housing providers at LeadingAge's 2022 Annual Meeting + EXPO.** The list can be found [here](#).

**Bill Would Greatly Expand HUD Service Coordinators.** On September 15, Representative Adam Smith (D-WA) introduced the Expanding Service Coordinators Act. The bill would authorize funding for at least 350 new service coordinators, urge HUD to include service coordinators in new community budgets, ensure funding for annual training of service coordinators, require a GAO study on rural service coordinators, and extend public service student loan forgiveness to service coordinators. Representative Smith's press release on the bill's introduction included endorsement and a quote from LeadingAge president and CEO Katie Smith Sloan: "Service coordinators in affordable housing communities for low-income older adults help residents access vital services, from transportation to physician appointments, and provide critical help, such as assistance with Medicaid programs, which allows residents to live independently. Research shows that in communities with service coordinators, residents' use of more expensive taxpayer-funded health care programs is reduced. Yet, despite service coordinators' proven value, funding for these roles has, for too long, been meager. Mission-driven affordable senior housing providers, including thousands of LeadingAge members, are eager to increase service coordinators' numbers across their affordable housing portfolio. LeadingAge is grateful for Representative Smith's introduction of the Expanding Service Coordinators Act, which recognizes the need for and seeks the bold service coordinator expansion older adults deserve." Read more in this [article](#).

**Senate Hearing on the Rural Housing Service.** The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs will hold a September 20, 2:30pm ET, hearing, "Examining the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service: Stakeholder Perspectives." The witnesses will be: Elizabeth Glidden, Minnesota

Housing Partnership; Marcia Erickson, GROW South Dakota; Tonya Plummer, Native American Housing Programs, Enterprise Community Partners; and David Battany, Capital Markets, Guild Mortgage Company, on behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association. The hearing can be livestreamed [here](#).

**Homelessness Hastens Mortality for Older Adults.** Research from the University of California San Francisco looks at mortality rates of older adults experiencing homelessness. Researchers found that people who first became homeless at age 50 or later were about 60% more likely to die than those who had become homeless earlier in life. Of course, homelessness was a risk for everyone. Researchers found that older adults who remained homeless were about 80% more likely to die than those who were able to return to housing. Mortality rates were high compared to the general Oakland population, the study found. The risk of dying was 3 times higher for men and 5 times higher for women, compared to people of the same age and sex in Oakland. The median age for participants entering the study was 58, and 80% were black; 76% were male, and 24% were female. For more on the research, see this [article](#).

**Increasing Rents Help Fuel Inflation.** On September 13, new [Consumer Price Index data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) showed that, overall, costs were up 8.3% in August compared to a year ago. “Increases in the shelter, food, and medical care indexes were the largest of many contributors to the broad-based monthly all items increase. These increases were mostly offset by a 10.6-percent decline in the gasoline index,” BLS said in its CPI summary. As [described by Reuters](#), “‘Owners equivalent rent,’ a measure of the amount homeowners would pay to rent or would earn from renting their property, increased 0.7%. It jumped 6.3% on a year-on-year basis, the largest increase since April 1986. Rents are sticky and account for a significant share of the CPI basket, meaning that inflation will remain elevated for some time. Higher mortgage rates and home prices are reducing affordability for many first-time buyers, driving up demand for rental accommodation.” In a [White House statement](#), President Biden urged patience.

**HUD to Host Virtual Event Focused on Climate and Housing.** On September 22 from 2:00 - 3:50 PM ET, HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) will host a Quarterly Update virtual event focused on climate and housing. With a portfolio of 4.5 million public and assisted housing units and its work in the development and preservation of affordable housing, HUD plays a key role in how the nation responds to the changing climate. Additionally, the department invests billions of dollars every year in housing, infrastructure, and services in neighborhoods and cities across the U.S. through its ever-increasing role in disaster recovery and risk mitigation. As households and communities face challenges such as hurricanes, wildfires, drought, extreme heat and cold, and thawing permafrost, HUD is increasingly searching for ways to mitigate and prevent climate impacts. This PD&R Quarterly Update will bring together experts to discuss topics including relocation, decarbonization and housing affordability, disparities in climate risks, and health impacts of climate change. The event will also provide attendees with an update on U.S. housing market conditions, as well as a look at the link between housing assistance and environmental justice. Click [here](#) to register for HUD’s event.

**HUD Virtual Conference on Identification and Measurement of Housing Discrimination.** On September 27, noon - 2:30pm ET, HUD is hosting a virtual conference focused on finding new methodologies that identify and measure housing discrimination. HUD’s objective is that these methodologies will augment current discrimination testing approaches. According to HUD, the conference is an opportunity to meet experts in the field of discrimination research and testing, discuss ideas, and ask questions. The conference will feature a panel discussion focused on various topics, including: research trends related to discrimination; gaps in research and testing of discrimination; methodological challenges in

researching and testing discrimination; and adapting testing protocols to technological changes (for example, ways to detect and capture differential treatment that might occur before in-person interactions). More information and a registration link are [here](#).