

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

September 25, 2020

HUD provides COVID-19 payment update for senior housing providers – HUD has completed reviews of all COVID-19 Supplemental Payment (CSP) requests received last month and has now obligated approved amounts to individual rental assistance contracts. HUD expects payments to begin flowing to properties next week and that most should receive funds by October 7. HUD will be providing email notifications to individual properties confirming approval/disapproval determinations. The payment mechanism is the same as standard rental assistance through LOCCs or via the contract administrator. More information is available [here](#).

HUD responds to LeadingAge letter on eviction protections – In response to a recent LeadingAge letter requesting quick action on eviction protections, HUD sent LeadingAge a letter commending the organization for our work on behalf of older adults and outlining the agency's measures to reduce evictions during the pandemic. In particular, HUD sent a communication to senior housing providers in early September encouraging them to work with residents to help them stay stably housed. LeadingAge's letter had also requested HUD action to financially support housing providers through an extended eviction moratorium; in its response, HUD reiterated the uses of CARES Act funds, and announced an extension of additional COVID-19 flexibilities available to providers. More information will be available [here](#).

HUD permits alternates to resident meetings for RAD, hosts webinar – In a Notice issued late on Friday, HUD allowed alternatives to group resident meetings required for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). For PHAs or Owners undergoing a RAD conversion, the Notice outlines criteria for any alternative approaches to resident engagement, including small group, individual resident, or virtual meetings. The authorizations are available to owners through the end of the national emergency, or through the end of the calendar year, whichever is later. More information about the Notice is available [here](#).

HUD answers LeadingAge questions on new RAD notice – In a webinar hosted today by agency staff overseeing the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, HUD discussed their newly-released Notice allowing for small group and individual meetings to meet the resident meeting requirement. In particular, HUD staff during the webinar stressed the importance of preserving the "spirit and benefits of large group in-person meetings," but acknowledged that pandemic-adjusted approaches are "not perfect." HUD staff reminded owners to accommodate residents with disabilities or Limited English Proficiency (LEP) as they utilize alternate methods of meeting with residents, including technology. HUD also responded directly to LeadingAge member questions regarding resident meeting documentation and COVID-19 funds for PRACs undergoing a RAD conversion. More information is available [here](#).

No Housing Advisory Group or COVID-19 Update Call on 9/28 – In observance of Yom Kippur, LeadingAge will not host our usual Housing Advisory Group call or 3:30 EST COVID-19 Update Call on September 28th.

The 3:30 call will resume as usual on Wednesday, and the Housing Advisory Group call will resume next Monday.

Register now for virtual update on DOL leave rule. Please register and join LeadingAge for a [Virtual Update](#) on the Revised Regulation on COVID-19 Employee Leave on Tuesday, September 29 at 2 pm Eastern. The virtual update will provide an overview of the revised regulation clarifying workers' rights and employers' responsibilities under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act paid leave provisions and hit on the following topics:

- Changes to the definition of which employees may be exempted from the paid sick leave and FMLA leave.
- Considerations for when your employees must provide notice, what documentation is expected, and if employees can take leave on an intermittent basis.
- Learn how to determine if an employee is “otherwise available to work”, which employees are considered a “health care provider” and which are eligible for paid leave.
- Understand the records you must keep as an employer and how to be reimbursed for leave taken by your employees

Update on National Day of Action – Nice work! On September 23rd, we hosted a national Day of Action to urge Congress to take immediate action for older adults. Thank you to everyone for helping us make our Day of Action a big success: We had more than 5,000 messages sent to lawmakers throughout the nation.

Advocacy Guide: Making your voice heard safely during COVID-19 – 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.