



# Senior Housing Weekly Recap

January 8, 2021

**Housing Advisory Group to feature contact tracers, vaccine officials and more.** LeadingAge's Housing Advisory Group weekly calls will continue on Mondays at 12:30pm ET in 2021, featuring guest speakers and the opportunity for members to network and strategize. During the month of January, the weekly calls will host contact tracing professionals from Johns Hopkins University, vaccine personnel from the Baltimore City Health Department, and other speakers. Email Juliana or Linda to join the calls, submit advance questions for speakers, or suggest other discussion topics.

**Vaccine Town Hall for assisted living and senior housing providers.** On Tuesday, January 12 at 12 pm ET, join LeadingAge, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing and Public Health, and the Baltimore City Health Department for a town hall for assisted living and senior housing administrators, managers, and staff. The event's panel, including Ruth Link-Gelles from the Pharmacy Partnership Program and Dr. Joshua Sharfstein from JHU, will address the science behind vaccines, vaccination distribution, messaging strategies, infection prevention, and other vaccine updates. [Learn more](#) and [register here](#).

**Toolkit for HUD Section 202 providers in the CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program.** LeadingAge has published a toolkit for Section 202 housing providers participating in the Pharmacy Partnership, based on the CDC's vaccine toolkit for Long-Term Care communities. The toolkit provides sample communications to residents about vaccine clinics, including a sample resident letter and survey, communication tips, and posters and stickers. The toolkit is available [here](#).

**HUD extends Service Coordinator CARES Act payment spending deadline.** On January 7, HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing announced a spending deadline extension for CARES Act payments for grant-funded Service Coordinators. Originally ending on December 31, the new period of performance for these grants is extended through March 31, 2021. The week of January 11, HUD plans to issue amendments to the Notices of Award for these grants, which will need to be approved by grantees in collaboration with Grant Specialists. More information [here](#).

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program.** Treasury has published a website for the new \$25 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The program will flow funds through state and local governments to help low income households pay for rent and utilities, including for arrearages. Owners of who do not receive ongoing rental assistance, including owners of low income housing tax credit housing, and their renters, are eligible for the program. More on the new website and the program are in [this article](#).

**LeadingAge submits concerns, recommendations for housing credit average income test.** In response to a rule proposed by the IRS to implement the new Average Income minimum set-aside for LIHTC properties, LeadingAge submitted comments expressing concerns and offering recommendations. LeadingAge housing provider members welcomed the third set-aside option, which was enacted in 2018 as a mechanism for reaching more low- and extremely-low income older adults through the tax credit program; however, more clarity was needed for providers administering the new test. LeadingAge

recommendations on the proposed rule include modifiable or floating unit designations, adjusted compliance standards for units rather than properties, and fallback options for owners and residents. More information will be available [here](#).

**Housing as part of COVID relief package.** The December 27-enacted COVID-19 relief [bill](#) extends the CDC eviction moratorium for nonpayment of rent until January 31, 2021, provides \$25 billion in rental assistance to meet rent arrear and future needs and gets payments to renters and owners, and stabilized the 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, which was weakened by the economic downturn, by creating a 4% minimum credit floor.

**Final FY21 HUD funding bill enacted.** The HUD portion of the massive December 27 bill brings \$52 million for new Section 202 housing, \$30 million for new, grant-funded Service Coordinators, and funding to meet the renewal needs of all HUD-assisted rental assistance contracts. The FY21 HUD bill, summarized [here](#), also includes \$5 million for intergenerational housing, as well as a \$14 million, two-year extension of HUD's IWISH demonstration program.

**Carbon monoxide alarms in HUD and USDA housing.** The December 27-enacted bill includes H.R. 1690, which requires most all HUD- and USDA-assisted housing units to have carbon monoxide alarms in them; [the bill](#) also authorize \$101.4 million a year to pay for the requirement.

**Stimulus bill offers emergency broadband benefit.** Included in the December 27 COVID-19 relief and FY21 appropriations bills package is an investment to boost internet access for households with low incomes, as well as other funds to help bridge the country's digital divide. Called an "emergency broadband benefit," the bill outlines a monthly discount on internet services, administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), for qualifying households during the duration of the public health emergency. The bill also authorizes funds to increase broadband infrastructure in rural and tribal areas, increase connectivity for minority group communities, map areas lacking internet connectivity, and advance telehealth services. More information will be available [here](#).

**COVID-19 Public Education Campaign on Vaccines:** Recently, HHS launched the [COVID-19 Education Campaign](#) aimed at increasing public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures, including mask wearing and social distancing. The CDC has also released other toolkits which may be helpful for affordable senior housing providers: one for [Retirement Communities](#), and one for [Older Adults and People at Higher Risk](#).

**Updated FAQs on Vaccines.** The LeadingAge [Vaccine FAQs](#) have been updated to reflect new information on 202 providers, whether pharmacy partners will immunize IL residents in a CCRC/LPC if the state has included them in the partnership, how to switch vaccine partners, and details about yesterday's [HHS announcement](#) about the availability of vaccines for essential workers. We update the FAQs almost daily as new information is available.