

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

May 29, 2020

New HUD guidance for electronic signatures and documents – On March 26th, HUD finalized guidance to allow (but not require) HUD-assisted senior housing communities to use electronic signatures and documents for certain management operations. The Notice effectively expands electronic flexibilities in place due to COVID-19 and will help communities limit virus exposure for both staff and residents. When adopting electronic file policies, housing providers need to comply with federal standards, including reasonable accommodations under the ADA and federal privacy/security requirements outlined in the Notice, as well as state and local requirements for file transmission and storage. View our summary [here](#).

“Reopening” Toolkits for Affordable Housing Providers – We posted a series of “reopening”/crisis recovery documents that we hope will help guide affordable housing providers through the next phases of the COVID-19. Documents include: a Decision Matrix; Operational Issues and Guidance Charts; Recovery Tools; and Resiliency Roadmaps. You can find the documents online [here](#) for affordable housing.

Delayed CARES Act funds for senior housing – HUD issued the 4th wave of relief funds from the CARES Act on May 18th; the most recent allocation goes to support new housing vouchers for non-elderly people with disabilities. Funds for senior housing community and service coordinators continue to be delayed, but LeadingAge is urging HUD action to help providers with crisis costs. We expect an announcement from HUD next week with more info. More info on the delayed CARES Act housing dollars is available [here](#).

Housing Advisory Group Call – Join your LeadingAge housing policy team and other housing providers for federal updates and peer-sharing about COVID-19. Our next Housing Advisory Group call will be held on Monday, June 1, at 12:30 EST and will discuss the latest issues from the field. To join our Housing Advisory Group, email Linda or Juliana.

IRS Update On Delayed Stimulus Checks – Under pressure from lawmakers about delayed stimulus payments for Social Security and other benefit recipients, the IRS has added FAQs answers for Veterans Affairs, Railroad Pension, and Social Security Recipients. The IRS also announced the addition of 3,500 telephone representatives to help answer questions, but urged constituents to continue using IRS.gov to access information. More information is available [here](#).

Updated HUD FAQs – On May 21st, HUD updated their MFH coronavirus FAQs with key information for housing providers. The new FAQs address residual receipt remittance, carrying over late fees during the eviction moratorium, messaging to residents about confirmed cases on site, delayed CNAs and audits, and more. You can find our summary online [here](#).

Action Alert for Senior Housing Bill – We shared an action opportunity to support our major senior housing relief bill. The alert asks for lawmakers to support or co-sponsor the “Emergency Housing Assistance for Older Adults Act of 2020.” The bill encompasses LeadingAge’s major legislative asks, including HUD 202 subsidy funds, service coordination funds, and internet infrastructure support. Members can take action quickly and easily [here](#).

Low Income Housing Tax Credit – Here’s an [update on advocacy around the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and the next COVID-19 relief bill](#). Housing Credit advocates are focused on getting a “4% floor” for the “4% credit,” whose value has lost ground as the federal borrowing rate has decreased.

Senate Aging Hearing – We submitted a statement for the record for the Senate Select Committee on Aging’s May 21 hearing, *Caring for Seniors Amid the COVID-19 Crisis*. Our [statement](#) outlines LeadingAge’s broad asks for the next COVID-19 relief package, including our \$1.2 billion request for affordable senior housing.

New QuickCast: COVID-19 and the Relief of Suffering – In this 30-minute QuickCast, Dr. Diane Meier describes the leading sources of suffering - symptom distress, loneliness, and lack of information - and how best to address them to support older adults and their loved ones. <https://learninghub.leadingage.org/courses/covid-19-and-the-relief-of-suffering>

LeadingAge Daily Calls – We have extended our daily 3:30pm EST live call updates through June. If you are registered, you received a confirmation email, which you can use to update your personal calendar appointment. Can’t find your email or need to sign up? Visit the [registration page](#) (again) so you’ll never miss an update. You can also access recordings of these Monday – Friday calls under “[Member Communications](#).”