

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

June 5, 2020

LeadingAge hosts discussion on race inequities in aging services – During the June 5th LeadingAge daily COVID-19 update call, LeadingAge board member Karyne Jones shared insight into racial and ethnic disparities in the aging services field, both during COVID-19 and more broadly. Jones, who is the CEO of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, addressed audience questions about culturally appropriate activities and services in senior housing, and about engaging in meaningful conversations with your communities. The LeadingAge daily updates calls have been extended through June - visit the [registration page](#) for recordings and more info.

HUD announces CARES Act allocation for Project-Based Communities – On May 28th, HUD [announced plans to allocate \\$800 million in CARES Act funds](#) for Project-Based Rental Assistance during the week of June 1st. The funding allocations will support Section 8 PBRA communities in maintaining normal operations, including by offsetting decreased tenant rent payments and accommodating increased vacancy payment claims resulting from extended unit turn-over and delayed move-ins. HUD did not provide an allocation update on relief funds for Section 202 or Service Coordinators; an additional allocation notice for the remaining \$200 million in PBRA is forthcoming.

Letter urging HUD to distribute CARES funds – On June 4th, Katie Sloan sent a [letter to HUD Secretary Carson](#) urging him to distribute critically needed COVID-19 relief funds to Section 202 Housing for the Elderly and Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance senior housing providers. The funds were provided under the CARES Act; as the letter says, the time is long overdue to these providers to receive the emergency funding to pay for cleaning, disinfecting, personal protective equipment, services, security and other COVID-related costs.

HUD issues pandemic hurricane update – On June 4th, HUD's Southwest Multifamily Region sent an update to housing providers about the [impacts of COVID-19 on the 2020 hurricane season](#), as well as for damage or displacement resulting from fire, flood, wind, severe cold, or other natural disasters or weather events. In its update, HUD is asking providers to follow standard disaster guidance until further notice, and to continue reporting requirements in conjunction with federal COVID-19 directives. HUD has also asked communities to be mindful of disruptions in disaster response services due to the pandemic. The CDC and FEMA have also provided webinars and resources related to resident messaging and emergency response during the pandemic.

LeadingAge curates preventative medicine conversation – On June 5th, LeadingAge co-hosted a conversation between senior housing property staff and preventative medicine experts. Titled "[Where Policy Meets Practice: Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Affordable Senior Housing Communities](#)," the event was cohosted by LeadingAge, LeadingAge Maine/New Hampshire, and the Maine Council on Aging. During the conversation, medical experts shared transmission and disinfection information for affordable senior housing communities throughout New England. They also addressed a variety of

scenarios in response to HUD's COVID-19 guidance, including strategies for reducing the spread of the virus while reopening common areas and bringing staff back to working on-site. A recording of the conversation will be made available shortly, and stay tuned as we plan for similar conversations in other parts of the country.

Statement on LeadingAge calls on the urgent need for federal COVID-19 leadership – On June 5th, LeadingAge CEO Katie Sloan called on the administration and Congress for urgently needed protections for older adults and their care workers in nursing homes, assisted living, affordable housing, hospice and home settings, as laid out in our [Five Essential Actions](#). Against a backdrop of new data showing higher burdens of the illness of communities of color, LeadingAge supports transparency and leadership on behalf of our country's older adults and the diverse aging services workforce, including a comprehensive, evidence-based national plan for coronavirus testing.

Cleaning and Disinfecting in Affordable Housing. We continue to get a lot of questions from affordable housing members on cleaning and disinfection. We have a [new article that summarizes HUD's recommendations](#) on this topic, which are mostly CDC and EPA guidance. HUD does have a new, and timely, two-pager on how HUD multifamily housing owners should dispose of medical waste. The article also links to the recording of a HUD disinfection webinar.