



## Senior Housing Weekly

May 27, 2022

**In observance of Memorial Day, there will be NO Housing Network call on Monday, May 30.** Our next Housing Network call is on Monday, June 6, at 12:30pm ET. On the June 6 call, we'll have a focused discussion on RAD for PRAC as well as other updates. Reach out to Linda, [lcouch@leadingage.org](mailto:lcouch@leadingage.org), or Juliana, [jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org), with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network.

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls Week of May 30.** We will not be holding a Coronavirus Policy Update Call on Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. On **Wednesday, June 1, at 3:30pm ET**, we will be joined by author and speaker Gregg Levoy. Mr. Levoy will discuss how important it is to keep commitment and passion alive in your organization and how mental health is something that everyone can use to succeed. He will help us unpack the real issues around burnout and provide ideas that can be used right away to help keep our workforce passionate and connected. 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.

**LeadingAge Affordable Housing Insurance Call, June 1, at 1pm ET.** Join us for a solutions-oriented discussion with HUD, insurance brokers, and housing providers on rising property insurance rates in HUD-assisted housing. In our second quarterly insurance-focused call, we'll discuss challenges with coverage, premiums, and deductibles in affordable senior housing, and explore operational and policy-related approaches to reducing and managing costs. Register [here](#); advance questions welcome to Juliana ([jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org)).

**Hearing on Affordable Rural Housing.** "If you don't have an affordable place to live, nothing else works," Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development Chair Tina Smith (D-MN) said today at a hearing on the USDA's Rural Housing Service. USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small, the sole witness, stressed how important the Rural Housing Service's multifamily portfolio is while sounding the alarm that "there is an imminent need to both more aggressively preserve Multi-Family Housing's existing portfolio and build new stock . . . The Rural Housing Service currently has approximately 400,000 units within its portfolio and in the absence of robust funding for Multi-Family Preservation and Revitalization, we will lose 333,780 units by 2050." Hearing topics included manufactured housing, efficiencies to be gained from HUD/RHS partnerships, and RHS's FY23 budget request. Watch a webcast of the hearing [here](#).

**Fact Sheet on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families.** Generations United has a new fact sheet on grandfamilies and kinship families. It incorporates data, policy and advocacy recommendations, infographics, and quotes from family members. Data related to the number of children living in grandfamilies and kinship families and the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic characteristics of families in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren are included. The fact sheet also provides details about the challenges these families face, from legal and financial issues to physical and mental health, housing, and education. See the fact sheet [here](#).

**White House and HRSA Webinar on Test-to-Treat for COVID-19.** On Thursday, June 2, at 2:00 pm ET, HHS's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is holding a webinar to share the White House's call to action around Test-to-Treat as [a strategy to mitigate the impact of COVID-19](#). The webinar will feature HRSA Administrator Carole Johnson and White House COVID-19 Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha as well as a moderated panel exploring safety-net provider perspectives. To join the zoom, [visit this link](#). If you prefer to join by phone: 833-568-8864; Webinar ID: 161 896 3980.

**New Data on Surviving Spouses.** Data released today from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau show a 5% increase from 2017 to 2019 in the number of adults 60+ who lost a spouse in the previous 12 months (from 1,151,000 to 2,206,000). According to the CFPB, surviving spouses' demographic, social, and household profiles differ significantly from the general 60+ population: surviving spouses are more than twice as likely to be women as they are to be men; more than one third of surviving spouses are 80+, compared to less than one fifth of the general older adult population; surviving spouses 60+ and older are also less likely to be in the labor force than their peers; and, surviving spouses are more likely to live alone than older adults generally. Of all homeowner surviving spouses 60+, 28% still had mortgage debt (of 90+ homeowner surviving spouses, 14% still had mortgage debt). Further, these pre-pandemic data show greater housing cost burdens among widowers. Among widowed homeowners, 35% spent 30% or more of their income on housing costs compared to 22% of homeowners in the general older population. Among older renters, 67% of new surviving spouses spent 30% or more of their income in housing compared to 57% of all older adults. "High home equity combined with high housing burden makes new surviving spouses who want to stay in their homes attractive targets for financial products that promise to alleviate their housing burden by leveraging their home equity," the CFPB warns. Read more [here](#).

**Julia Gordon Sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Housing and the Federal Housing Commissioner.** Julia Gordon was sworn in on Friday, May 20, as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [Assistant Secretary for Housing and the Federal Housing \(FHA\) Commissioner](#). The FHA provides mortgage insurance on loans made by approved lenders on single-family homes, multifamily properties, residential care facilities and hospitals. Commissioner Gordon was confirmed by the Senate on May 12, 2022, with Vice President Kamala Harris casting the deciding vote to break a 50-50 tie and end more than a year of vacancy in the key HUD position. "HUD's Office of Housing and the Federal Housing Administration are critical to the department's work, and I'm delighted to be a part of a strong team in strengthening our communities and meeting urgent needs in the housing market. I look forward to joining Secretary Fudge and HUD in delivering our mission to create affordable and inclusive communities and quality homes for all," said Commissioner Gordon. The newly-sworn in Commissioner previously served as president of the National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST), as the senior director of housing and consumer finance at the Center for American Progress, as manager of the single-family policy team at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and as senior policy counsel at the Center for Responsible Lending.

**FHA Announces New "Green Mortgage Insurance Premium" Reductions for Section 232 Residential Care Communities.** The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced significant reductions in the upfront and annual mortgage insurance premiums (MIP) charged for most mortgage insurance

categories under the Section 232 program for residential care facilities. Supporting the Biden-Harris Administration’s environmental objectives and HUD’s Climate Action Plan, this reduction is designed to encourage owners of skilled nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and board and care homes to adopt higher standards for construction, rehabilitation, repairs, maintenance, and property operations that are more energy efficient and sustainable than traditional approaches to such activities. More information [here](#).

**Challenges for America’s Older Adults to “Age My Way.”** On May 26, LeadingAge hosted a webinar for aging services leaders to explore the two barriers facing older adults’ ability to “Age My Way”: lack of awareness of existing aging services and the crisis in access to care and support. [Experts](#) in home and community-based care, the aging services workforce, affordable housing, and federal policy shared dynamic, insightful solutions to these challenges. [Access the webinar recording](#), read the [press release](#), and check out [these resources](#) from the event.

SPECIAL REMINDER

**Nominations Open for the 2022 RWJF Award for Health Equity**

***June 17 is the deadline to submit nominations for the 2022 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award for Health Equity presented by LeadingAge.***

LeadingAge and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) are pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the 2022 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Award for Health Equity. The Award for Health Equity recognizes an individual or a team of two individuals who have successfully implemented efforts to help advance health equity for populations of vulnerable older adults. Nominees should demonstrate that they have sought ways to increase access to services, supports, and opportunities that enable vulnerable older adults to lead healthy lives.

The deadline to [submit a nomination](#) is midnight on **Friday, June 17**.

Additional information can be found [here](#).