Senior Housing Weekly

June 10, 2022

Housing Network Call June 13. HALF-HOUR call on Monday, June 13, 12:30 – 1pm ET. On our abbreviated Monday, June 13, call we will provide updates from HUD and the Hill and look forward to your sharing news and updates. Reach out to Linda, lcouch@leadingage.org, or Juliana, jbilowich@leadingage.org, with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network.

Monday Coronavirus Update Call. New vaccines, new boosters, and new variants as we head into summer, what does it all mean? On **Monday, June 13,** at 3:30pm ET, we will be joined by **Dr. Jeffrey Shaman**, professor, Environmental Health Sciences (in the International Research Institute for Climate and Society/Earth Institute), and director, Climate and Health Program, Columbia University, to discuss what we can expect and to answer your questions about new boosters and vaccines. 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 Pushes Back on Limits to Services and Other Changes in Section 8 Rent Setting. In response to Section 8 rent setting policy changes proposed by HUD, LeadingAge has pushed back strongly to preserve the federal government's investments in non-shelter services at HUD-assisted senior housing communities. Earlier this year, HUD proposed revisions to Chapter 9 of the Section 8 Renewal Guidebook to adjust the process for Rent Comparability Study appraisal valuations. The proposed changes impact project-based Section 8 properties, including Section 202/8, undergoing an RCS to establish the value of non-shelter services provided at the property; the proposed changes also adjust the appeals process for the appraisal, the administrative cost and workload for the RCS, and the valuation of internet access at the property. LeadingAge's letter to HUD is available here, and more information will be available here.

HUD Funding Votes Scheduled, Advocates Press Congress. The House Committee on Appropriations has scheduled votes on its fiscal year 2023 HUD appropriations bill. The time between now and the votes is an excellent opportunity for housing stakeholders with Representatives on the full appropriations committee or its HUD subcommittee to communicate affordable senior housing priorities to these key decision makers. The FY23 HUD bill will be considered in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies on June 23; the full Committee will consider the bill on June 30. Full Committee members and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee members, especially, should hear from housing stakeholders now. Now is the time to urge your Senators and Representatives to increase funding for affordable senior housing to preserve and expand affordable housing for older adults with very low incomes. Your advocacy matters and your voice makes an impact. Please send an email today using this link. See more in this article.

Rising Housing Costs for Older Adults, LeadingAge Member Culpepper Garden on CNN. On June 10, CNN aired a story on how inflation is impacting older adults, particularly older adults on fixed incomes facing rising housing and food costs. LeadingAge member Culpepper Garden's Marta Hill Gray is featured in the story, sharing information about her community's significantly increased housing waiting list with reporter Gabe Cohen. LeadingAge's Linda Couch, VP for housing policy, is also quoted in the piece on inflation's impact on surging rent costs. View the CNN piece here.

Senators Seek Input on Rural Housing Service. Following up on their May hearing on rural housing, Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Mike Rounds (R-SD), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, are requesting input from stakeholders on Rural Housing Service programs. Interested stakeholders can submit their proposals directly to Rural_housing@smith.senate.gov by July 8. Any submission may be made public, so submitters should not include confidential or business sensitive information. Submissions should be included the body of an email or as a .pdf file, with a clear name of the author, any affiliated organization, and appropriate contact information. LeadingAge intends to submit comments to the Subcommittee; members with suggestions or ideas should contact lcouch@leadingage.org.

Interested in Pursuing a Master Plan on Aging in Your State? The Center for Health Care Strategies released a new tool today, Developing a Master Plan for Aging. Many LeadingAge state partners and members have watched California develop, promote and begin to take action on a Master Plan on Aging (MPA). An MPA is a cross sector, state led strategic planning resource that can help states transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for their rapidly aging population, as well as people with disabilities. Stakeholders, even those in states that might have developed more traditional aging plans in the past, see hope for more progress and organized strategies through this approach. The new tool outlines the core tenets for how to develop an MPA in your state, with best practices and state examples throughout.

LeadingAge to Host Call on Policy Changes to Criminal Background Screening. Join LeadingAge on June 22 at 1pm ET to help provide feedback to HUD about changes to criminal background screening at affordable housing properties. In April, HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge announced an agency-wide effort to remove barriers that prevent individuals with criminal histories from participating in HUD programs. As a result, HUD offices are working to identify all existing HUD regulations, guidance documents, and other policies that may pose barriers to housing people with criminal histories; the review includes regulatory and sub-regulatory documents like model leases and other agreements. By October 14, 2022, HUD offices are directed to propose updates and amendments to the agency documents and guidance to make HUD programs as inclusive as possible for individuals with criminal histories. Join LeadingAge for a call to discuss the process of criminal background screening at senior housing properties and the potential impact of HUD's policy changes, and help create feedback for HUD as they undergo their review of agency guidance. Register in advance here.

Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Materials. The Federal Communications Commission has pulled together outreach tools for the Affordable Connectivity Program. Consumer awareness flyers, social media content, fact sheets, infographics, audio PSAs, a consumer FAQ, a search tool for participating internet service providers offering the Affordable Connectivity Program discount, and

information on how to sign up into one website. Most materials are available in English and Spanish and many are also available in Arabic, Chinese-Traditional, Chinese-Simplified, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

****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.