

Medicaid HCBS and PACE Weekly: Recap of Leading Age Updates

September 26, 2022

Coronavirus Update Calls October 3 and 5. All calls are at 3:30 PM. The aging services direct care workforce is evolving and we all wish we had a crystal ball to see what the future holds and how organizations can adapt to meet the changing demographics of our workforce. On **Monday, October 3, Dr. Kezia Scales, Senior Director of Policy Research, PHI**, will share the results of [PHI's annual report](#) on direct care workers and will talk about job quality challenges and projected openings, and provide overviews of different segments of the direct care workforce. On **Wednesday, October 5**, we will be joined by **Richard Quartarone**, a health communicator in the Immunization Services Division at the CDC, to discuss the new bivalent vaccines, the importance of talking about all vaccines, and how LeadingAge providers can prepare for the upcoming flu season and also stay vigilant with COVID-19. 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.

Older Adults in Florida Need Our Help. Hurricane Ian continues to cause damage, severe flooding, and critical situations for LeadingAge member communities as it blows through Florida, now a tropical storm building momentum again.

"To our members in Florida: We're here for you. We know the impact of disasters can be far-reaching and long-lasting, and your LeadingAge community will support you in every way possible as many older adults and families in the communities you serve rely on your care."

- Katie Smith Sloan, LeadingAge president and CEO

Our thoughts are also with members up the coast as we watch the storm path and hope there is no further impact. [Please consider a donation to the LeadingAge Disaster Relief Fund](#), as 100% of all donations will go directly to members and their staff. The need for food, water, and other supplies is immense and is likely to worsen in the coming days.

LeadingAge submits comment on Energy and Commerce Request for Information. LeadingAge submitted comments on September 26th on the Energy and Commerce Committees' [Request for Information on Disability Policy in the 21st Century](#). Our response focused on LTSS and Medicaid, LTSS financing reform in the private market, and the impact on family caregivers. The LeadingAge response can be found [here](#) and we will continue to engage on these issues.

PHI Report Outlines Steps to Help Home Care Providers Implement a Care Integration Senior Aide Program. PHI released a guide to assist home and community-based services providers in implementing a Care Integration Senior Aide (CISA) program in their agencies. The new guide, *"Implementing the Care Integration Senior Aide: A Practical Guide for Home and Community-Based Services Providers"* details 10 practical steps for implementing a CISA role in a home care setting, as well as five steps for making a strong business case to sustain the program long term. Read the full guide [here](#).

Government Shutdown Likely to be Averted. Senate Sends Short Term Funding Bill to House. On September 29, the Senate voted 72 – 25 to pass a short-term funding bill or Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep federally appropriated programs funded at FY22 levels absent enactment of any of the FY23 appropriations bills. The House is expected to pass the CR and President Biden is expected to sign it before midnight September 30 to avoid a government shutdown. The CR would keep federal programs funded at FY22 levels until December 16, several weeks into FY23, which begins October 1. The CR also includes \$12 billion for Ukraine but does not include any of the \$22.4 billion requested by the Biden Administration to meet COVID-related short-term domestic needs, including testing, to accelerate the research and development of next-generation vaccines and therapeutics, to prepare for future variants, and to support the global response to COVID-19.

Housing-Related Resources from 2021 Infrastructure Law. The National Council of State Housing Agencies has published a 23-page presentation, “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Implications for Affordable Housing.” In addition to the November 2021 bill’s affordable broadband access programs LeadingAge is deeply engaged in, the overview describes the bill’s transportation programs through the Department of Transportation (DOT), including funding for transportation-oriented development; clean water programs through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including investments in clean water infrastructure, with a focus on disadvantaged communities; and, energy efficiency and environmental resilience programs through the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) through investments in single- and multifamily home energy upgrades, home energy assistance, and disaster and hazard mitigation. Access the new resource [here](#).

CMS Announces Lower 2023 Medicare Premiums and Deductibles. On September 27 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [Fact Sheet](#) with 2023 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for Medicare Part A and Part B, among other information.

- **Medicare Part B Premiums/Deductibles:** The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$164.90 for 2023, a decrease of \$5.20 from \$170.10 in 2022. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$226 in 2023, a decrease of \$7 from the annual deductible of \$233 in 2022.
- **Medicare Part A Premiums/Deductibles:** The Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible that beneficiaries pay if admitted to the hospital will be \$1,600 in 2023, an increase of \$44 from \$1,556 in 2022. In 2023, beneficiaries must pay a coinsurance amount of \$400 per day for the 61st through 90th day of a hospitalization (\$389 in 2022) in a benefit period and \$800 per day for lifetime reserve days (\$778 in 2022). For beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities, the daily coinsurance for days 21 through 100 of extended care services in a benefit period will be \$200.00 in 2023 (\$194.50 in 2022).

See the CMS [Fact Sheet](#) for additional information, including income-based adjustments to Part B premiums and the Medicare Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts.

CLA Survey on Budgeting in Volatile Times. Our partners at CLA are in the process of gathering data on how organizations are budgeting in the COVID-era, especially in response to the pressures of changing governmental regulations and of inflation. If you wish to participate, you can do so [here](#), and you will receive a full, complimentary report of the findings.

White House Releases Strategy on Hunger Including Medicare Reimbursement. A strategy paper [released](#) Wednesday September 28th, following the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, supports legislation to create a pilot program to test medically tailored meals under Medicare fee-for-service. Currently, some 1,324 Medicare Advantage plans provide food and produce or meals as a nonmedical supplemental benefit, but no benefit exists in traditional Medicare. The pilot would be designed as a “food is medicine” intervention to treat seniors with diet-related health conditions and reduce food insecurity. Other interventions discussed in the paper include expanded research on older adults’ access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), increasing Congressional funds for Older America Act nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels, and bolstering the healthcare workforce and ensuring medical professionals receive nutrition education. Read more about the White House conference [here](#).

White House Invite: Convening on American Rescue Plan Funds for Community Health Workforce Investments. The White House will host a virtual convening on Friday, September 30, at 10 AM ET to highlight “the American Rescue Plan’s historic investments in the community health workforce, which is deploying tens of thousands of people over the coming years into underserved communities to address health disparities, COVID-19, and other health needs exacerbated by the pandemic.” This event will feature Biden-Harris Administration officials, members of Congress, local elected officials, community-based organizations, and workers, which included: Gene Sperling, White House American Rescue Plan Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the President; Carole Johnson, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY); Representative David Trone (D-MD) and Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot. We will provide a summary if there is information relevant to members.

Kaiser Health News Holding Event on COVID and Older Adults: Kaiser Health News in partnership with the John A Hartford Foundation is hosting a web event entitled “The Long Shadow of Covid: Older People and the Ongoing Pandemic” on October 11. It features a panel of guests including one speaker from LeadingAge member Hebrew Senior Life. Register [here](#).

Poll Finds Food Inflation Hits Older Adults Hardest. A new National Poll on Healthy Aging from Michigan Medicine and AARP [found](#) that more than a third of people 50 to 80 say the rising cost of groceries has impacted them a lot. Food insecurity was more common among those with people in fair or poor physical and mental health, incomes under \$30,000, and those with high school education or less. Respondents who lived alone were more likely to say they had run out of food before they had money to get more.

Report Finds Home-Based Palliative Care Cuts Risk of Hospital Death. A new research report from two hospitals in Canada [found](#) chronic heart failure patients who received home-based palliative care had a 48% lower risk of dying in the hospital than those who received more standard care. Additionally, these patients were at lower risk of being admitted to the hospital or visiting an emergency department.

American Rescue Plan Funds for Community Health Workforce Virtual Webinar. The White House is hosting a virtual convening on Friday, September 30, 2022 at 10am ET to highlight “the American Rescue Plan’s historic investments in the community health workforce, which is deploying tens of thousands of people over the coming years into underserved communities to address health disparities, COVID-19, and other health needs exacerbated by the pandemic.” Register for the event [here](#).

FAQs on the Employee Retention Credit. Following the LeadingAge [webinar](#) on the IRS Employee Retention Credit, we gathered responses on frequent member questions. [Here](#), we have organized them by topic area for quick reference. These FAQs have been written for LeadingAge by Christopher N. Moran, Esq. of Venable LLP, the legal expert for the webinar.

CDC Recommendations (Article Updates). We continue to update the [LeadingAge article on CDC recommendations for healthcare settings](#) as we gain further insight from CDC. Newly added are clarifications around staff removal of source control in areas of high community transmission, eye protection, and testing and source control recommendations for new admissions.