

Highlights for LPCs:

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.

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.

NIC Releases Wave 45 Survey Results. The National Investment Center has released the results of its latest [Executive Survey](#), which follows trends in staffing, retention, occupancy and operational costs for senior housing providers. The pace of move-ins for IL, AL and SNF reportedly slowed down during this survey period, and for AL, this was the third consecutive survey that did so. Memory Support, however, demonstrated a 12% acceleration in move-ins when compared to Wave 44, attributed again to the release of pent-up demand during the pandemic. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) reported that their staffing shortages were “moderate,” and 19% reported “severe” shortages, an overall improvement over previous surveys. Most respondents (53%) anticipated that staffing challenges would improve in 2023; 16% felt that challenges will not improve until 2024, and 9% not until 2025 or beyond. Staff retention was evaluated in this survey, and compared to previous surveys, new-hire retention rates are declining. At the 12-month mark, new-hire retention in this survey was 46.7%, down from 51.8% in Wave 44 and 57.3% in Wave 39. A similar trend was seen in new-hire retention at three months; only retention after one month of employment improved this survey as compared to previous, to 67.2%. Participating providers also predominantly felt that their use of agency staff would remain the same (57%) or increase (8.5%) over the next six months, and this is a huge driver of the overall increase in operational costs for participating organizations. Other drivers of increasing costs included vendor pricing, raw food costs, overtime, utilities, and insurance, as well as industry-specific compensation increases that exceed inflation rates. Overall, 21% of respondents have seen their operating expenses increase more than 20% since the start of the pandemic, and 41% have seen expenses increase between 10-19% in that same period. Want to add your data to this important industry benchmark? You can participate by clicking [here](#) for Wave 46, and you can sign up to get regular invites by emailing Ryan Brooks at rbrooks@nic.org.

CARF Releases LPC Consumer Guide on Financial Viability. In mid-August, CARF released its updated [Consumer Guide to Life Plan Communities: Quality and Financial Viability](#). Designed with the potential LPC consumer and their supportive network in mind, the Guide offers a basic overview of the LPC model, contract types, amenities, and fees. In addition, the Guide offers a very easy-to-follow narrative on how an LPC consumer can begin to evaluate the long-term financial performance and viability of an LPC. Not only can the Guide be a helpful handout to prospective residents from an LPC sales office, it also can be used as an education tool for new staff members and new board members who may be unfamiliar with the model. This is a free download and is prepared by experts from CARF's Financial Advisory Panel, comprised of CARF-accredited LPC operators and residents.

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.

Ziegler's CFO Hotline: Resident Monthly Fee Increases. Every year, Ziegler surveys nearly 300 CFOs of senior living organizations on the ever-tumultuous topic of resident monthly fee increases. This year's [report](#) revealed an average 2023 projected fee increase of 5.38%, up from an average 4.70% in 2022. (The maximum reported projected increase was a jaw-dropping 22.0%.) Next year, operators in the southern region of the U.S. reported the highest-average increase (6.15%) while the northeast reported the lowest (4.40%.) Type C and B contracts saw the highest-reported projected increases (5.81% and 5.39% respectively.) For all contract types, and for Independent Living, this will be the highest-average increase within the last 5 and within the last 12 years, respectively. The two top primary drivers of these increases were, not surprisingly, wages/ labor costs, and inflation. Given the magnitude of this coming year's fee increase, the majority of CFOs were giving serious thought to also installing a mid-year fee adjustment in 2023.

Ziegler Summary of Senior Living Finance & Strategy Conference. Weren't able to attend Ziegler's 25th Annual F&S Conference this year? You can catch up on the popular sessions by reading a quick summary in their latest [newsletter](#). The best-attended sessions were on new campus development and expansions, single-site communities, dynamic sales and marketing tactics, growth through revenue diversification, and advancing strategic technology solutions. Additional summaries will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

2022 Annual Meeting Guide for CC@H. For continuing care at home members, we have crafted this [Session Guide](#) of educational opportunities that are of greatest relevance for this member group. All are welcome, and we hope to see you in Denver!

LPC Annual Meeting Session Guide. Of the abundant educational sessions offered this year at Annual Meeting, we've carefully curated this [Guide](#) of sessions that may be of especial interest to LPC members. Selected to represent the broad array of interests concerning LPCs, these sessions include topics ranging from data analytics, to DEI, federal policy updates, operational strategy and designing the LPC of the future. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you in Denver!

Medical / COVID-19 Related Updates:

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](#).

Flu Vaccination Reporting. The 2022/2023 Flu Season officially (for CMS) begins October 1. This year, nursing homes will be reporting Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel through NHSN for the SNF QRP program. The specifications of the measure require nursing homes to make a least one report on flu vaccination coverage of all staff who worked at least one day during the flu season (October 1 – March 31) by the reporting deadline May 15. In order to qualify for the SNF QRP, data must be reported through the Healthcare Personnel Safety Component. Reporting through the Long-Term Care Facility component will not qualify for SNF QRP. NHSN hosted a webinar on this reporting on September 27 and will repeat the webinar on October 19. Register [here](#). We are working to obtain more information on this reporting and any associated requirements from CMS.

Advocacy Updates and Hill News:

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.

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. [RSVP here](#) to join, and please share this invitation with colleagues and members of your community.

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.

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](#).

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Responding to the White House’s call to action to end hunger and reduce diet-related disease by 2030, private sector initiatives to reach these goals were announced at the September 28 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. Of the projects announced, AARP and AARP Foundation will expand research on older adults’ access to SNAP and use this research to improve SNAP enrollment rates for older adults, which still lag behind other populations. By 2024, AARP will additionally complete new research to identify the key characteristics of non-participating yet eligible older adults and the key drivers of low SNAP enrollment, which it will share widely to inform policy, advocacy, and on-the-ground efforts to boost awareness and enrollment among older adults. And, Google will launch new product features to help Americans access public food benefits and health care services. Google Search will facilitate SNAP enrollment by making it easier for users to find detailed and locally-specific information on how to check their eligibility and apply for SNAP benefits. Google will also update its search experience to enable Americans already enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid to find and schedule health care appointments directly within the Google Search tool. Read more about the White House conference [here](#).

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.

News from LeadingAge:

Research from the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston and Weil Cornell Medicine Links Job Satisfaction and Nursing Home Turnover Intent. A new article in [Geriatric Nursing](#) by Verena R. Cimarolli, Natasha S. Bryant, and Robyn Stone, researchers at the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston, and Francesca Falzarano, a researcher at Weill Cornell Medicine’s Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, suggests that the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on direct care professionals increased the high turnover and staff shortages in nursing homes that were already prevalent before the pandemic. The authors sought to identify factors associated with intent to remain on the job among direct care professionals in nursing homes. They concluded that “the only factor directly associated with intent to remain was higher job satisfaction. There were no significant direct associations between intent to remain and COVID-19-related work stress, quality of communication, and preparedness.” The level of job satisfaction among direct care professionals in the study sample was driven by how well their organizations communicated with them and how well prepared they felt to care for residents during COVID-19, write the authors. Read the full text of “[Factors Associated with Nursing Home Direct Care Professionals’ Turnover Intent During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)” which is offered free of charge through October 30, and can be accessed [here](#).

Call for Sessions Now Open: 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO

Do you want to drive the conversation forward and contribute to progress in aging services? The sector's most prominent event is coming to Chicago, IL from November 5-8, 2023. Start planning your proposals to present at the 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO. Session proposals must be submitted by December 5, 2022. [Learn more and submit proposals here.](#)

