



Senior Housing Weekly

October 7, 2022

HUD Round-Up on Housing Network Call Next Week. Join us on Monday, October 10th for our regular Housing Network Call for affordable senior housing providers. We'll discuss key HUD updates from the past couple of weeks, including HUD's recent Notice to move to 5-year PRAC renewals. We'll also check in on disaster recovery efforts and review the results of our quarterly affordable housing survey. Reach out to Juliana, jbilowich@leadingage.org, or Linda, lcouch@leadingage.org, with topic suggestions or to join the Housing Network. Any LeadingAge member is welcome to join.

Coronavirus Update Calls October 10 and 12; all calls are at 3:30 PM ET. What changes in your workplace culture have emerged since the pandemic? How can these changes be leveraged for strength and innovation in providing care for older adults? On **Monday, October 10**, Nicole Gann, President and CEO of Juliet Fowler Communities will join us to share her organization's insights on the lessons they have learned and will provide some tools fellow LeadingAge members can use to strengthen their organization and lead beyond COVID-19. On **Wednesday, October 12**, we will be joined by Nicole Kostelc, Sr. Manager of Clinical Support Services at Omnicare to discuss important issues around the new boosters that are available and will be able to answer your questions as your organization prepares for flu season and COVID-19 boosters for residents and staff. 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.

HUD Looking for Vacancies as LeadingAge Members Evacuate Residents. LeadingAge and HUD are tracking rapid rehousing options for hurricane-impacted areas. LeadingAge affordable housing members today reported various levels of damage and displacement resulting from Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, and HUD told LeadingAge last week that the agency has begun their disaster recovery assessments. Housing providers with vacancies can report open units to HUD using two forms for the relevant geographies:

- Puerto Rico – Hurricane Fiona: <https://forms.office.com/g/9Z9hvjvX7qS>
- Florida, Georgia and South Carolina – Hurricane Ian: <https://forms.office.com/g/Cbq3md79Mc>

HUD is asking for reporting bi-weekly for 90 days for Hurricanes Fiona and Ian; the agency will coordinate with FEMA and with the state and territory on relief efforts. LeadingAge is also accepting donations to our [Disaster Relief Fund](#), with 100% of all donations going directly to disaster-impacted LeadingAge members and their staff.

Older Adults and Our Workforce Need Our Help. Hurricane Ian continues to cause damage, severe flooding, and critical situations for LeadingAge member communities. Our thoughts are with all members and their residents, staff, and families in 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. Thank you to the individuals that have already donated.

LeadingAge to Host Call on HUD's New Green and Resilient Retrofit Program. Join LeadingAge for a call on Wednesday, October 12, at 1pm ET to generate feedback for HUD on the agency's new Green and Resilient Retrofit grant program. In response to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, HUD is designing the new \$1 billion GRRP program for Multifamily Housing communities, including project-based Section 8, Section 202, and Section 811. The agency expects to make multiple rounds of funding available to support energy and water efficiency retrofits, as well as climate resilience of HUD-assisted multifamily properties. HUD is accepting comments until October 27, and LeadingAge is collecting housing provider feedback for HUD to ensure the program meets the energy efficiency and climate and disaster resiliency needs of HUD-assisted affordable senior housing. Register [here](#) for the call, and send any additional feedback on the new program to jbilowich@leadingage.org by October 21. Read more about the GRRP [here](#); see the RFI [here](#).

Reminder: HUD Webinars on Section 202 NOFO. HUD's Section 202 Capital Advance NOFO Team is hosting a series of webinars on key application topics. Register for each of the sessions individually: [NOFO Overview on Wednesday, October 12, 2-3 pm ET](#); [NOFO Scoring on Thursday, October 13, 2-3 pm ET](#); [NOFO Toolkit on Tuesday, October 18, 2-3 pm ET](#); [Environmental Screening on Thursday, October 20, 2-3 pm ET](#); and, [Site and Neighborhood Standards on Thursday, October 27, 2-3 pm ET](#). Read more about the new Section 202 NOFO [here](#).

Housing Survey Results: Operational Challenges and Services Partnerships. Results from LeadingAge's latest quarterly survey of affordable senior housing members show providers stretched thin yet committed to meeting the needs of residents. The results describe a cadre of professionals facing a host of operational hurdles amidst workforce challenges, managing a multitude of partnerships to connect residents to services and supports, continuing to connect residents to COVID vaccines, and preparing for HUD's new physical inspection protocols coming in 2023. This is not a scientifically designed or sampled survey. The survey represents responses at a point in time collected from LeadingAge affordable senior housing provider members. Read more about the survey results [here](#).

LeadingAge Reiterates FY23 HUD Funding Priorities. As Congress looks to finalize its FY23 HUD appropriations bill this calendar year, LeadingAge has sent appropriators a letter reiterating our priorities and our preferences between the House and Senate bills. Members should look out for an action alert to urge Representatives and Senators to support strong affordable senior housing funding on October 12. LeadingAge's October 7 letter is [here](#).

Report Looks to Learn from COVID Experiences. A report released October 6 from the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, *Advancing Housing and Health Equity for Older Adults: Pandemic Innovations and Policy Ideas*, looks at provider responses to social isolation and to disruptions in access to food, medical care, and supportive services by older adults during COVID-19. The report considers how these responses might offer lessons that can improve housing and supports for older adults going forward. Together with The Hastings Center, JCHS collected hundreds of examples, some from LeadingAge members, on how housing providers responded to the pandemic. Efforts were successfully employed because of several underlying frameworks, which the authors assert should be kept in a post-crisis COVID world. These include having age-friendly networks, planning directly with older adults, having regulatory flexibility and getting services and supports into the home. A few structural basics were very important: broadband, access to fresh air, and accessible homes and neighborhoods. Finally, "Some pandemic responses succeeded despite barriers to coordination and collaboration. Strengthening

the connections between housing, healthcare, and social service programs requires coordinating subsidies and incentives, sharing data, and establishing forums for collaboration,” the report says. Read the full report [here](#).

Study Projects Thousands of Lives Could be Saved by Fall COVID Booster Campaign. A [study](#) released yesterday by the Commonwealth Fund and conducted by experts from Commonwealth, Yale, and York University, concluded that a rigorous campaign to encourage uptake of bivalent boosters could save thousands of lives and billions of dollars.

Researchers Find Personal Care Aide Shortage in Rural America. New research [published](#) in Health Affairs this month found that many rural Americans who need personal care aides through Medicaid home and community-based services are not able to access services. The report looked at rates of self-care disability across the United States and the supply of personal care aides per 1,000 adults. States with the largest care gaps included Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Arkansas and Maine. Washington State and New Mexico also had significant caregiver gaps. While the study looked at the entire adult population with self-care disabilities, the disability rates among rural adults 65 and older are also higher than their counterparts in urban areas. While workforce shortages in aging services are not news, it is helpful to have any additional documentation to ensure our advocacy and solution finding are evidence based.

New BPC Report on PACE Arguing for Expansion. A comprehensive new [report](#) for the Bipartisan Policy Center finds that the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) should be expanded geographically, enroll more seniors, and CMS should work to demonstrate its value more effectively to increase consumer awareness as well as publicly report quality improvements of individuals in the program. BPC notes that they estimate the one-time implementation of a number of policy recommendations would cost \$38 million with an additional \$12 million annual commitment to maintain the expanded program.

Race and Ethnicity Influence End-of-Life Care for Medicare Patients with Dementia. A new [study](#) from researchers at Rutgers University found that the odds of receiving intensive or quality of life-focused end-of-life services based on dementia status are not evenly distributed across racial/ethnic groups. After reviewing the total medical costs for 463,590 Medicare beneficiaries nationwide, researchers determined 51% of Medicare patients die with a dementia diagnosis claim and individuals from racial/ethnic minoritized groups were more likely to be hospitalized, admitted to the ICU, receive intensive services, or die at a hospital. One striking example of this inequity is found in the Asian American and Pacific Islander population. Generally, this group had 73 percent higher odds of intensive care at the end-of-life compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts, however, among Asian American and Pacific Islanders with a dementia diagnosis, the odds increase to 175 percent of receiving intensive procedures. The researchers argue that the difference is not problematic if it reflects patient preferences for intensive services, but more research is needed to understand whether these differences may be attributable to other factors including systemic racism, discrimination, poor physician communication, and other barriers to accessing healthcare.

October Opportunities To Meet With Members of Congress. During the month of October, members of Congress and their staff will be returning back home to meet with constituents and talk about issues that are important to the local community. This is a very good opportunity to look for events to meet with local elected leaders and also reach out to local congressional offices to invite them to visit your organization and meet the staff and residents that are served. LeadingAge members are encouraged to

host a Coffee Chat With Congress meeting with their local congressional offices so our elected leaders can see the great work that is being done and also hear first hand about the challenges facing aging services providers. Visit www.leadingage.org/coffeechats to download our meeting toolkit and help us educate policymakers in your local community.

Its not too late to register for LeadingAge Annual Meeting! In just a couple weeks, LeadingAge members will come together in Denver for [four days of strategic discussions, education, and networking](#) focused on the long-term growth of the field—and on strengthening ourselves as aging services professionals. From October 16-19, we'll hear from thought leaders across our field, focusing on key topics for affordable housing providers, such as:

- Redeveloping Affordable Housing Against All Odds
- Section 202 Awards: Lessons from Successful Applicants
- The Evolution of Service Coordination
- Affordable Housing: Policy and Operations Update
- Housing-Based Services: Impact on Health and Well-Being
- Asset Management in Affordable Senior Housing
- How Can Affordable Housing Promote Digital Inclusion?
- Bringing Technology to Affordable Housing through Partnerships
- J.J. Carroll: A Case Study of Housing and Healthcare Integration
- It Takes a Village to Build Staff Morale

The full education program is available [here](#). There are several opportunities for site visits, including to Eaton Senior Communities, and Daily Huddles for affordable housing providers. [Register today to join us at the Annual Meeting + EXPO](#).