

Coronavirus Calls. All calls are at 3:30 PM ET. What do the midterm elections mean for aging services? What's bringing voters out? Regardless of your political party, the midterm election, set for Tuesday, November 8, will do a lot to clarify how policy decisions will be made on Capitol Hill. The entire House of Representatives and a third of the Senate will be decided. On **Monday, November 7**, join us as we chat with **Jonathan Voss**, Partner at Lake Research Partners, a national public opinion and political strategy research firm. Jonathan will share insights from survey research on how voters are thinking about issues related to older people and aging services and discuss what the outcomes of the election might mean for the short and long term. the midterm elections. **Did resident engagement change during the pandemic? If so, how, and are the changes going to last? On Wednesday, November 9, Teresa Scott**, President and CEO of Penney Retirement Community in Green Cove Springs, Florida will be with us to talk about a unique model of resident engagement and how it helped Penney get through the pandemic. 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.

New Venezuelan Migration Process Expands Pathways to Citizenship and Employment Opportunities. On October 12, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) actions to reduce the number of people arriving at the U.S. Southwest border, and create a more orderly and safe process for people fleeing the humanitarian and economic crisis in Venezuela. On October 26, LeadingAge and members of the Essential Immigration Workers Coalition (EWIC), participated in a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) sponsored briefing regarding the new Venezuelan migration program. It was noted that no data is currently available regarding the professional training, experience, qualifications, or job interests of Venezuelans who might be included in this new group. However, if organizations are willing to provide financial support for the duration of their parole in the United States, along with the recommended commitment, this may potentially lead to employment opportunities among these individuals who generally will be paroled into the United States for a period of up to 2 years.

USCIS requires a U.S. based supporter to submit a [Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support](#), through the online web portal to initiate the process. The supporter will be vetted by USCIS to ensure that the supporter is able to financially support the individual and any immediate family members whom they agree to support. The USCIS refers to the Federal Poverty Guidelines to determine whether the sponsor can demonstrated adequate income to support a beneficiary that is enrolled in the Venezuelan program.

Examples of the types of support for beneficiaries that should be provided, includes: the ability to receive the beneficiary upon arrival in the United States and transporting them to initial housing; ensuring that the beneficiary has safe and appropriate housing for the duration of their parole, and initial basic necessities; ensuring the beneficiary's health care and medical needs are met; and, as appropriate, assist the beneficiary with accessing education, learning English, securing employment and enrolling children in school. More information on how supporters can become eligible for this process is

available at www.uscis.gov/Venezuela. A LeadingAge article is available [here](#) that provides additional information regarding the process.

DHS to Supplement H-2B Cap with Nearly 65,000 Additional Visas for Fiscal Year 2023. The Biden Administration also [announced](#) on October 12, they will make available to employers nearly 65,000 supplemental H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas for fiscal year (FY) 2023, on top of the 66,000 that are normally available each year. The H-2B visa provides for the temporary admission of foreign workers to the United States if unemployed U.S. workers cannot be found. H-2B workers are not limited to a particular set of occupations. In recent years H-2B worker have performed a number of jobs. The top positions include maids and housekeeping cleaners, amusement and recreation attendants and meat, poultry and fish cutters and trimmers. [Note: these are the DOL categories.] Foreign medical graduates coming to perform medical services are explicitly excluded have been excluded from the H-2B visas.

LeadingAge is working to expand the H-2 visa program as spelled out in a “H-2Age” bill. The draft bill would create a new temporary aging services worker visa category. Additionally, LeadingAge is supporting the Essential Workers for Economic Advancement Act (H.R. 7239), that expands the H-2 visa program, and allows foreign workers to come to the United States to fill “essential jobs” that don’t require a college degree. This information is also available [here](#) in a LeadingAge article.

White House Push on Boosters, Treatments, and Air Quality to Prevent as Many COVID Deaths as Possible. LeadingAge and a few other organizations attended a meeting with the White House COVID team on November 1. The COVID team has asked LeadingAge and other organizations to work with them on promoting vaccines and boosters, use of treatments, and efforts to improve air quality. In kicking off the meeting, Dr. Ashish Jha, head of the COVID team, told the small group assembled that over the next five months (November through March) infectious disease experts estimate that 50,000 people in the country will die of COVID. One of every five of these individuals who die - 20% - will be nursing home residents. “All or most of these deaths are preventable with the proper use of vaccines, boosters and treatments,” Jha observed. “We can save ourselves and potentially prevent 50,000 deaths.” Nursing home and assisted living providers play an important role in encouraging the use of these measures and Dr. Jha asserted that the White House has a strong commitment to partnering with aging services providers to prevent this dire outcome. A LeadingAge article with more details about the meeting is available [here](#).

LeadingAge Co-signs a letter Urging Congress to approve higher domestic and international spending levels. On November 1, LeadingAge joined a coalition of more than 400 national, state, and local organizations urging Congress to enact an omnibus government funding bill that includes domestic and international program amounts that are no less than those proposed by the House of Representatives for Fiscal Year 2023. Domestic and international programs -- also known as non-defense discretionary spending, or NDD – proposed by the House of Representatives are higher than amounts proposed by the Senate. As House and Senate appropriators work to set 2023 spending levels, LeadingAge is working with its coalition partners to advocate for the strongest possible program funding that supports older adults and their families. The funding levels could ultimately assist federal investments in aging services workforce priorities. [You can read the coalition letter here.](#)

National Governor’s Association, “Addressing Wages of the Direct Care Workforce Through Medicaid Policies” paper: This [paper](#), released Nov. 1, examines Medicaid policy vehicles states can use to increase direct care worker wages. It provides examples of what some states are doing. For members

and our state partners, it offers a list of options states may be considering to address direct care workforce challenges and ideas for how to approach Medicaid rate discussions with your states and/or potential initiatives to look out for.

Have You Seen the New Workforce Recruitment Tools? Backed by recent national research among potential employees, LeadingAge prepared new workforce recruitment tools. LeadingAge members can access communications strategies, message frames, messenger guidance, and tips for crafting recruitment communications. These tools are part of the expanded [Opening Doors to Aging Services](#) initiative to increase awareness of the sector and move perceptions positively. Now specific insights about connecting with potential employees are available through [Opening Doors to the Aging Services Workforce](#). These new resources are free to members. Access them now on the *new* [LeadingAge website](#). Additionally, you can access a LeadingAge “Workforce Crisis: America Needs Caregiving Professionals Now Fact” Sheet [here](#).

Share Your Workforce Innovations with the Story Collector. Do you have a story of innovation in staff recruitment, training, or retention? Tell your colleagues about innovations that help you fill positions, build a strong workplace culture, and promote the honorable and varied careers available in aging services. [Visit the LeadingAge Story Collector](#), powered by LeadingAge Gold Partner Greystone, to tell us more.

Start Planning Your 2023 Annual Meeting Sessions. Save the date! Proposals for the [2023 LeadingAge Call for Sessions](#) must be submitted by December 5, 2022. Submit your original session idea for the opportunity to speak at the 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO in Chicago, IL from November 5-8, 2023. [Learn more and submit your proposal here](#).