



Medicaid HCBS and PACE Weekly: Recap of Leading Age Updates

November 11, 2022

Upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls. All calls are at 3:30 PM ET. How does HUD support preservation and recapitalization of federally assisted housing? Hear it straight from HUD! **On Monday, November 14, Tom Davis, Director of the office of Recapitalization at HUD** will join us. The Office of Recapitalization (“Recap”) supports the preservation and recapitalization of federally-assisted housing and rental assistance. Recap structures, reviews, and implements transactions to ensure long-term physical and financial viability, often through public-private partnerships and the use of tax-incentivized financing. Programs currently or recently implemented by Recap include the Rental Assistance Demonstration ([RAD](#)). **On Wednesday November 16, Ashley Z. Ritter, APRN, PhD Director of Clinical Care Research at NewCourtland** will join the call. NewsCourtland is a Philadelphia-based, non-profit organization that provides thousands of low-income seniors with affordable housing, healthcare, and supportive services which are customized to meet each individual’s unique needs. 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.

QuickCast for Members on How to Educate Residents and Clients on their Medicare Choices During Current Open Enrollment Period Through December 7. It is Open Enrollment Time right now for Medicare beneficiaries, this is the one time of year when all Medicare beneficiaries decide how they want to receive their Medicare benefits –either through traditional FFS Medicare or a Medicare Advantage or Special Needs Plan. Open Enrollment happens every year from October 15 through December 7. We heard from members that many beneficiaries enroll in MA/SNP plans but don’t really understand what that means for accessing post-acute care services later. So, this is a great time for members to do some pre-education with residents and clients in all their settings to help beneficiaries and their families make informed choices. LeadingAge has put together a member-only QuickCast with resources entitled, [The Importance of Medicare Open Enrollment](#). In this 18-minute QuickCast, Nicole Fallon reviews what providers can (and cannot) do to educate older adults and their families about Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans.

White House Summit on COVID-19 Equity and What Works Showcase, November 16. On November 16, the White House will hold a Summit on COVID-19 Equity to highlight interventions and approaches that have moved the needle on equitable COVID outcomes and map a path forward. Panel discussions will be live streamed. You can register [here](#).

Falls Prevention Grants. The Administration for Community Living has released a new falls prevention Notice of Funding Opportunity. The “2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs” will distribute \$3.5 million to six awardees to reduce falls and/or falls risk among older adults and adults with disabilities in their community through the implementation of evidence-based falls prevention programs, focusing on those older adults in underserved

areas/population. The two primary goals of these awards are to develop capacity to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence-based falls prevention programs to empower them to reduce falls and/or their risk of falls and to identify and implement one or more robust strategies that will promote the sustainability of evidence-based falls prevention programs. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations. View the grant announcement [here](#). An informational conference call will be held on November 16, at 1pm ET: 888-455-0043, passcode: 9989425. A recording will be available approximately one hour after the call concludes at the following number: 800-835-8069.

Research Supports CAPABLE Model. HUD and its contractor the National Council for Healthy Housing has completed research on how well the CAPABLE program can be implemented by other organizations serving clients of different backgrounds and still achieve its successes. The CAPABLE program, begun by Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing several years ago, offers a three-pronged approach: (1) the support of in-home occupational therapists (OTs); (2) the support of registered nurses (RNs); and (3) home modification services from handymen or home repair (HR) professionals to address health and safety issues. In the CAPABLE program, these three interventionists work with each other and the client to individualize the fit between the client and their home. Prior research has shown that because clients define their own goals, they are more likely to be engaged in the services and show greater function improvements. The new evaluation found that, yes, it is feasible for smaller organizations to successfully implement the program. Importantly, the study found that the program was effective at reducing falls and increasing the percentage of study group clients who reported no difficulty with bathing, lower body dressing, getting in and out of beds and chairs, using the toilet, and walking across a small room. These impacts were achieved with a modest implementation cost, ranging from roughly \$300 to \$12,000 and averaging \$2,600 per client, with the higher costs for single-family homes. Of the 132 clients who completed the programs by these four organizations, one of which is LeadingAge member Cathedral Square Corporation, one-half had incomes less than or equal to 30% of area median income, clients had lived in their homes a mean of 20 years (range less than 1 to 75 years), and 69% lived alone at baseline. Overall, 51% of clients lived in apartments or condominiums in multi-unit buildings versus single-family homes. As a companion to the [research](#), NCHH prepared an [implementation brief](#) to highlight lessons learned by the four partner organizations during this demonstration. LeadingAge also believes this research buttresses our effort to expand HUD's older adult home modification program beyond only homeowners to include renters as well.

"Test Soon, Treat Early" Resources. The CDC has developed a flyer to educate people on how important it is to "TEST SOON – TREAT EARLY." With COVID cases expected to rise in the coming weeks and months, the importance of testing and of early treatment cannot be overstated. Here is the [CDC's new flyer](#). If there is an available "test to treat" site nearby, [this jpg](#) from HHS's Administration for Strategic Preparedness Response will also be useful.

Senate Hearing on Affordable Food for Older Americans. On November 16 at 10:30 AM ET, the Senate Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing titled "Setting the Table: Promoting Healthy and Affordable Food for Older Americans." Witnesses include a nutrition program participant from Pennsylvania, a nutrition coordinator from Georgia state government, the founder and director of the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, and a volunteer at a community outreach program in South Carolina. At present there is no plan for a video broadcast of the hearing. The content may be of interest to HCBS and affordable housing members of LeadingAge specifically. LeadingAge will monitor and report on any major points.

