

**Upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls. All calls are at 3:30 PM ET. On Monday December 5,** Ryan Brooks, Senior Principal, Healthcare Strategy at National Investment Center for Seniors Housing & Care (NIC) will join us to talk about NIC's latest WAVE of its survey of senior living and nursing home operators. We'll talk to Ryan about the new questions that were added in this wave about portfolio diversification and about the finding that 25% of respondents said they are planning to downsize or close their nursing home and or short-term rehab units. **On Wednesday, December 7,** Dr. Dan Kelly, from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) will join us to discuss their latest study on the impact of vaccines and boosters. Kelly and his team identified 1.6 million people who were fully vaccinated. Three quarters of them were over age 65 and 70% had a pre-existing condition that put them at greater risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID. Even while Delta and Omicron were circulating, these vaccinated and boosted individuals, reported in JAMA, were less likely to experience breakthrough infection and serious illness than those who had not been vaccinated and boosted. 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.

**LeadingAge Congressional Letter: Lame Duck Immigration Priorities to Stabilize the Aging Services Workforce.** On November 29, LeadingAge sent a [letter](#) to leaders in Congress, strongly urging support for a year-end legislative package that includes immigration reform to help stabilize the aging services workforce. Specifically, we are asking for support for legislation that would:

- Create a pathway to citizenship and permanent residency status for aging service workers deemed essential, during the pandemic;
- Recapture unused employment-based immigrant visas and make them available to 40,000 foreign nurses and doctors;
- Create a new temporary visa for "non-agricultural essential workers" that could be available for aging services and other industries, that currently have no visa program that allows them to legally hire year-round temporary workers.

We also encouraged the Congressional leaders to implement a new temporary guest worker H-2 visa program for aging services and organizations serving people with disabilities, as recommended in a draft bill supported by LeadingAge, AHCA and the Home Care Association of America. Additionally, we urge Congress to find a compromise to address the DACA program, and those with temporary protected status, which could be a pathway for thousands of individuals to remain in the country.

**LeadingAge Letter to the Editor on *New Yorker* Article:** Katie Smith Sloan sent a letter to the editors of the *New Yorker* regarding the story “How Hospice Became a For Profit Hustle.” Please see the letter [here](#) that underscores that differences between our nonprofit and mission driven members and those described in the article as well as a call for action. Member talking points in response to the article can be found [here](#).

**House Task Force on Aging and Families Chairman to be Next Minority Leader.** On November 30, House Democrats officially elected Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), as House minority leader for the next congressional session, making him the most powerful Democrat in the House. LeadingAge has worked closely with incoming Minority Leader Jeffries in his current role as Democratic Caucus Chairman, and the chair of the House Democratic Caucus Task Force on Aging and Families (TFAF). The TFAF leadership is instrumental in enacting legislation that addresses the economic well-being and quality of life for older Americans, their loved ones, and their caregivers.

**DOL Announces \$90 Million Funding Opportunity to Support Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Young People.** To help remove academic and training barriers faced by young people, on November 30, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced [a \\$90 million funding opportunity](#) in [YouthBuild Program](#) grants to support pre-apprenticeships in high-demand industries including healthcare (and the care economy), construction, information technology and hospitality. Administered by the DOL’s Employment and Training Administration, the grants will fund approximately 75 projects nationwide with individual grants ranging from \$700,000 to \$1.5 million and require a 25 percent match from applicants, using sources other than federal funding.

Eligible applicants for the YouthBuild grants are public or private non-profit agencies or organizations, including a consortium of such agencies or organizations. These organizations include rural, urban, or Native American/Tribal entities that have previously served opportunity youth in a YouthBuild or other similar programs. The grants will be required to support occupational skills training, employment services and educational guidance to disadvantaged young people, from ages 16 to 24, in communities where barriers to basic academic and career skills development exist. Grantees must also develop program models that align with pre-apprenticeship under the Registered Apprenticeship Program. DOL expects applicants funded through this solicitation to have well established partnerships in place prior to the grant award. More information on the grant is available, at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=YouthBuild>

**Nursing Home Administrator Turnover.** CMS began posting staffing data on Care Compare in January 2022. This data was incorporated into the Five Star Quality Rating System beginning in July 2022 and we have recently heard concern from several members about how administrator turnover is calculated and displayed. Specifically, when an administrator goes on leave for more than 60 days, they are counted as administrator turnover. In most cases, a temporary administrator is filling in and leaves or returns to their previous position when the original administrator returns from leave. This, too, counts as administrator turnover. We have pointed out to CMS that data showing a correlation between administrator turnover and quality of care does not distinguish between true administrator turnover

and turnover reflective of administrators on leave and suggested that CMS create a process to adjust Care Compare in these circumstances. CMS has agreed to examine the data and continue this conversation.

**Long-Term Care Imperative Admissions Survey Reiterates Minnesota’s Senior Care Staffing Crisis.** Minnesota’s Long-Term Care Imperative, a collaboration of LeadingAge Minnesota and Care Providers of Minnesota, recently conducted a survey on admission policies of its members designed to gauge access to long-term care around the state. LeadingAge Minnesota [summarizes](#) the key findings of the survey, conducted October 27 – November 22, stating “Minnesota’s staffing shortage in senior care is a crisis, affecting seniors and families in every corner of the state. Seniors and their families are waiting for the care they need because there aren’t enough caregivers.” A few key takeaways illustrate the significant challenges facing providers statewide:

- More than 60% of assisted living facilities in Minnesota report turning down 1 to 5 admission referrals during October 2022;
- 35% of Minnesota nursing facilities denied more than 21 or more admission referrals in October;
- Nearly 70% of Minnesota assisted living facilities have placed a hold on admissions, and report turning away more hospital admissions than before the pandemic;
- 69% of Minnesota nursing homes and 29% of assisted living locations have placed limits on new resident admissions because of an inability to fill staff positions; and
- 54% of Minnesota nursing homes and 38.5% of assisted living found admissions over the weekends were very difficult to process, due to insufficient staffing.

The Long-Term Care Imperative’s goal is to utilize the data to bolster their argument with lawmakers to increase nursing home and waiver rates, so they can pay their skilled, dedicated caregivers the wages they deserve in the upcoming months and throughout the 2023 session. You can access the survey data at [LeadingAgeMN.org/resources](https://LeadingAgeMN.org/resources), and also review the “[Summary - Nov. 2022 Admissions Survey](#).”

**New Education on the LeadingAge Learning Hub.** Several new and recently recorded learning opportunities are available on the LeadingAge Learning Hub.

- December 14 Webinar: Join us on December 14 at 2:00 p.m. ET for the follow-up webinar to the June 2022 [Active Shooter Preparedness webinar](#). The new webinar, [Active Shooter Events: Creating and Maintaining a Secure Environment](#) will detail the appropriate controls residential communities should have in place to recognize, assess, and manage security threats and active shooter situations.

- New DEI QuickCast: [Cultivating Cultures of Belonging is a 20-minute QuickCast](#) about the role of privilege and cultural humility in creating organizations where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

**LeadingAge Annual Meeting: 2023 Call for Session Deadline is December 5.** The deadline for the 2023 Call for Session is rapidly approaching! Submit your original session idea for the opportunity to speak at the 2023 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO in Chicago, IL. [Read the full guidelines and submit your proposal here.](#)