



## Hospice Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

January 20, 2022

**Upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls. Interested in hiring refugees? What about the impact of the pandemic on society and on individuals as we get to the next normal? All calls are 3:30 PM ET.** Join us on **Monday, January 23**, as we speak with Mary Klein from Westminster Communities of Florida about her organization's Afghan Refugee resettlement project. **On Wednesday, January 25**, Karen Kaplan, Science and Medicine Editor at the Los Angeles Times will join us to share her observations of changes in health care, society, and individuals' behaviors as a result of the pandemic. She has consistently provided timely, unique, and hard-hitting coverage over the course of the past three years. She has always paid attention to older people and been supportive of aging services. 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 Provides Hospice Program Integrity Recommendations to Congress and CMS.** LeadingAge, in partnership with other national hospice association partners, provided the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and key Congressional stakeholders with 34 [recommendations](#) grouped into 11 core issue areas to improve hospice program integrity. Below please find the press release, article and full list of recommendations which were published today. We would like to thank all the members who provided feedback on these recommendations.

- Press Release: [National Hospice Leaders Urge CMS and Congress to Advance Program Integrity in Hospice Care through Effective Oversight](#)
- Article: [LeadingAge Provides Hospice Program Integrity Recommendations to Congress and CMS](#)
- Recommendations: [Hospice Program Integrity Ideas – Hospice Industry Consensus](#)

**CDC Releases New Dashboards for Tracking Respiratory Disease.** CDC has released two new dashboards for tracking respiratory disease including COVID-19, flu, and RSV. [Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network \(RESP-NET\)](#), interactive dashboard updated weekly, can be used to follow trends and see comparisons of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV -associated hospitalization rates in different demographic groups including by age, sex, and race and ethnicity, and across seasons. A [second dashboard](#) provides a view of emergency department visit data for multiple respiratory diseases tracked by the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP). These dashboards will prove useful to providers implementing infection control surveillance systems and in determining appropriate infection prevention and control strategies based on the prevalence of these respiratory infections in the surrounding community.

**FAQs on LeadingAge test ordering website available now.** To help aging services providers navigate utilization of the LeadingAge test ordering website, we asked a number of FAQs of HHS and wrote them up for those ordering tests. The FAQs can be found at [this link](#).

**Anticipated Delay of Fiscal Year 2024 White House Budget Request.** Observers expect the President's FY24 budget request to Congress to be delayed until March, potentially pushing back Congress's appropriations timeline. The President's budget request is considered the first step in the federal budget process that includes passing annual appropriations bills that fund the government. Although federal law sets the target date of the President's budget request as the First Monday in February, this timeline often shifts depending on the circumstances. We will provide additional updates on the federal budget process as it evolves.

**Reminder: Provider Relief Fund Reporting Period 4 is Open.** Reporting Period 4 (RP4) opened January 1 and continues through March 31, 2023. It covers PRF received between July 1 and December 31, 2021. Members should know that this reporting period is guided by the updated reporting guidance issued in October 2021, which outlines how ARP Rural funds should be reported upon but also contains changes to how lost revenues will be treated going forward. Members should familiarize themselves with the new guidance prior to reporting. These new requirements apply to RP4 and all future reporting periods. **LeadingAge is hosting a webinar with experts from CLA on the new PRF reporting requirements on February 2 at 2 PM ET. Providers can register [here](#).**