

**Upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Calls.** We know vaccines prevent *severe* COVID and long COVID, but they don't do much to prevent transmission. How can people keep themselves safer and even avoid getting COVID at all? On Monday, January 9 join us as we talk with Dr. Syra Madad, Senior Director of, the System-wide Special Pathogens Program at the NYC Health + Hospitals about masks and preventing transmission. She'll talk about what she calls the "Three Cs:" close contact, crowded spaces, and confined places with poor ventilation.

As we enter year four of life with COVID, the one thing we've all learned is that everyone has to make their own decisions about risks and comfort levels. What works for you may not work for others. How do we balance public health and the health of the people we serve and care for with individual decision making about personal health? On Wednesday, January 11, Dr. Gretchen Chapman from Carnegie Mellon University will join us to talk about how people calculate their own risks and ways they can feel confident about their decisions. She'll apply some of that thinking to leading staff who might be hesitating about accepting bivalent boosters. 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 Workforce Advocacy Win: DOL's Registered Apprenticeship Program.** LeadingAge advocated for funding of \$303 million for the U.S. Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), as a fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations priority. The President signed the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations bill into law on December 29, and it includes \$285 million for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, an increase of \$50 million above last year's funding level. LeadingAge members looking to develop new RAP opportunities can access the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship, "[A Quick-Start Toolkit: Building Registered Apprenticeship Programs](#)." A LeadingAge article with additional information on the DOL's Registered Apprenticeships Program opportunities is available [here](#). You can also access a LeadingAge article, [here](#), for additional information on our workforce advocacy wins included in the FY 2023 omnibus appropriations bill.

**Administration Announces Expanded Border Security and Legal Pathways to the United States.** President Biden unveiled a new policy on January 5, aimed to increase security at the Southwest border. The Administration is also announcing new and expanded policies that provide legal pathways to the United States. This includes the expansion of the "Venezuela Parole" program to three additional countries, Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua, as part of the Administration's [New Border Enforcement Actions](#). These individuals will be provided temporary parole for up to two years in the United States, including work authorization. There will be a 30,000 per month cap on the number of individuals from all countries. Parolees must

also have a supporter in the United States who will provide financial and other support. You can access a LeadingAge article [here](#), with additional information.

**IRS Increases Standard Mileage Rate for 2023 by 3 Cents Per Mile.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [issued](#) the 2023 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning on January 1, 2023, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3 cents from the midyear increase setting the rate for the second half of 2022.
- 22 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, consistent with the increased midyear rate set for the second half of 2022.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2022.

**LeadingAge Workshop: Communications Strategies to Boost Recruiting.** LeadingAge can help you distinguish your organization's workforce recruiting efforts. Using unique market research among potential employees, we have prepared [comprehensive strategic guidance](#) to help members communicate the many benefits of working in aging services. Learn how to build your recruiting communications around tested messages and strategies. This virtual workshop takes place at 2:00 p.m. ET on January 19. Learn more and register for [Opening Doors to the Aging Services Workforce: Strategies to Boost Recruiting](#)

**LeadingAge Leaders of Color Network Advocacy Webinar Series.** All LeadingAge members are invited to join a three-part webinar series hosted by the LeadingAge Leaders of Color Network designed to help leaders of color in the field of aging services become involved in advocacy at the state and federal levels. The webinars will offer a practical guide to the advocacy process as seen through the eyes of seasoned advocates and the importance of sharing leaders of color's unique perspectives with government policymakers. [Learn more about the Leaders of Color Network Advocacy Webinar Series and Registration for the Series.](#) The series begins with a one hour and fifteen-minute session, "The ABCs of Advocacy" on Tuesday, January 17. For more information regarding the webinars or interest in joining the Leaders of Color Network, please contact Amma Addo at [aaddo@leadingage.org](mailto:aaddo@leadingage.org).

**Share Your Passion for Aging Services Through Mentorship.** LeadingAge is recruiting mentors for college students interested in aging services. Mentors have the incredible opportunity to foster the development and growth of college/graduate students through challenging tasks, advice, and encouragement. Consider sharing your passion and make a positive impact on the pipeline of future leaders. [Learn more about the program](#) and [sign-up to be paired with a student](#).