



Senior Housing Weekly

September 13, 2024

Housing Network Call: Monday, September 16, 12:30pm ET. Join our regular Housing Network call on Monday, September 16, at 12:30 p.m. ET to talk all things affordable housing advocacy! We'll be joined by Ayrienne Parks, Senior Director of Policy Advocacy with Enterprise Community Partners, to discuss advocacy updates and opportunities for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. We'll also be joined by Linda Couch, SVP of Policy and Advocacy at LeadingAge, to [discuss advocacy for the HUD budget for fiscal year 2025](#). The Housing Network meets weekly on Mondays at 12:30pm ET and is open to all provider members of LeadingAge. For details on joining the Network contact [Juliana Bilowich](#) or [Linda Couch](#).

National Policy Pulse Call. LeadingAge's members-only briefing and analysis call with our experts, "National Policy Pulse," happens every Monday at 3:30 p.m. ET. Register for the calls (registration required even if you were registered for the previous 3:30pm policy update calls) [here](#). Your registration will keep you on the list for all calls in 2024, and we'll send a new registration link to members for calls in 2025 so you never miss a beat. Recordings and materials from previous calls can be accessed on the [National Policy Pulse page](#).

LeadingAge Annual Meeting Registration and Housing Events. The [2024 LeadingAge Annual Meeting](#) is quickly approaching! Will we see you in Nashville this October? More than 5,000 aging services professionals will be helping to define the future of our field October 27–30 in Nashville, TN. [Learn more and register today](#). And don't forget to check out our [recommended sessions and activities](#) for Affordable Housing providers!

2025 Call for Sessions at Annual Meeting Now Open. Do you want to present at the 2025 LeadingAge Annual Meeting in Boston? Aging services providers and business members have the opportunity to share their original, thought-provoking approaches, ideas, models, best practices, and more with the LeadingAge community. [Mark your calendars for the December 9 deadline](#) and submit your proposal for consideration. [View guidelines and submission information here](#). The 2025 LeadingAge Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the [Global Ageing Network's](#) biennial conference.

Action Alert: Affordable Senior Housing Funding. On September 10, LeadingAge issued an action alert to urge aging services stakeholders to ask Senators and Representatives to increase and adequately fund HUD affordable senior housing programs in fiscal year 2025. There are large differences between the House and Senate FY25 HUD funding bills; the alert helps inform policymakers to support the strongest possible funding as Congress works to complete its FY25 HUD funding bill over the coming months. See the action alert [here](#).

Congress Begins Consideration of Spending Stopgap. Congress is back in session as of September 9, with completing a continuing resolution by midnight September 30, the last day of fiscal year 2024 (FY24). On September 6, Representative Clay Higgins (R-LA) and House Committee on Appropriations Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) introduced [H.R. 9494](#), a CR that would fund annually appropriated federal government programs at FY24 levels through the first six months of fiscal year 2025, until March 28,

2025. At a September 9 House Committee on Rules meeting on the rules under which the House will consider the measure as soon as September 11, Democrats voiced opposition to a six-month CR as well as H.R. 9494's provision that would require proof of citizenship in order to register to vote in federal elections. Congress has yet to enact any of the 12 FY25 appropriations funding bill despite the looming October 1 start to FY25. While mandatory spending programs like Medicare and Medicaid are not impacted by CRs because these are not annually appropriated programs, HUD funding is annually appropriated and thus directly impacted by a CR. LeadingAge's assessment is that keeping HUD programs funded at only FY24 levels for half of FY25 is a potentially dangerous proposal, one that could leave HUD with insufficient funds to renew rental assistance contracts with affordable senior housing providers at a full level and / or for full 12 month terms.

Supportive Services for Housing Bill Introduced. Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA), a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, introduced the *Affordable Housing Resident Services Act* on September 12. The bill would expand eligible grantees and eligible grant uses of the existing [Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration](#), which is administered by HHS's Administration for Children and Families. Under the bill, a broad array of housing providers would be eligible for the program's grant funding, including low income housing tax credit, Section 202, and project-based Section 8 properties, etc. Affordable housing properties could use up to 25% of funding received under the grant for a service coordinator at the property; remaining funds could be used to provide supportive services to residents. Eligible services funded by the grant would include supports for older adults, mental health, alcohol and addiction treatment, educational opportunities for youth and adult residents, after-school programs for children and teenagers, self-sufficiency resources, resources on future home ownership, financial literacy training, assistance to residents with disabilities, and other community services. "As we work to address the nation's housing crisis and California's homelessness epidemic by building more affordable housing, the importance of connecting residents with quality supportive services is even more vital to help them succeed," Representative Aguilar said in a [statement](#) upon the bill's introduction. LeadingAge worked with staff on the bill, which LeadingAge supports.

LeadingAge Releases "The Immigration Imperative" paper. Aging service providers are seeking new and innovative approaches to strengthen and build America's long-term care workforce—including reforms to our outdated and inefficient approach to legal immigration. This issue is one of the most critical for LeadingAge members and we are thrilled to announce the release of our latest white paper, [The Immigration Imperative](#). This paper offers a timely and relevant overview of current issues followed by practical recommendations on policy changes that will help to increase the pipeline of foreign-born long-term care workers in the U.S.—and create a foundation for them to thrive in our member communities. Our press released on this important LeadingAge product and priority can be found [here](#).

COVID Test Kits available for HUD, Home Health, and Hospice Providers. LeadingAge has received confirmation that home health and hospice agencies are eligible to request COVID test kits upon request to the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). LeadingAge has confirmed with HHS that the program continues at this time and into 2025. Nursing homes, assisted living, home health, and hospice providers can request to be added to weekly distributions by emailing TDX@hhs.gov and providing their shipping information. Any requests to increase, decrease, pause, or re-initiate shipping should also be sent to TDX@hhs.gov. HHS states that requests are usually processed within a couple of weeks of being received. [HUD multifamily affordable senior housing providers can order free test kits through this portal](#). LeadingAge understands how vital this program is for our members. We are grateful that the

Administration continues this program and we [continue to advocate](#) for access to tests, vaccines, and therapeutics for aging services across the continuum.

HUD Awards \$10 million to Support Tenant Capacity Building. On September 10, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$10 million in grants to expand tenant education opportunities and resources for low-income residents of certain HUD-assisted multifamily properties. The funding will support capacity building efforts that enable thousands of tenants who live in HUD's project based rental assistance housing to more effectively engage with property managers and owners to help sustain safe, decent, and affordable housing. According to HUD, the program will help tenants in their efforts to work productively with property management, hold management accountable for property conditions, improve management and oversight of these multifamily properties, and advocate to preserve affordability. Funds awarded to the tenant advocacy organizations are available through HUD's Tenant Education Outreach (TEO) Program and will enable the AIDS Healthcare Foundation—in partnership with the Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants—to strengthen tenant organizing groups. These organizations will make funds available over the next two years to approximately 30 eligible tenant advocacy organizations on a first come, first served basis, to build the capacity of tenants as active partners in the preservation of affordable rental housing for low-income residents. LeadingAge affordable housing providers often promote and collaborate with resident councils, and our members welcome support for tenant engagement and capacity building. More info [here](#).

Popular Emergency Preparedness Webinars Free for Limited Time: Emergencies can strike at any time, which is why LeadingAge has curated an array of tools, training resources, and playbooks for members available on our [Emergency Preparedness](#) landing page. BONUS! For a limited time, LeadingAge is also offering free access to two of its more popular resources: "[Active Shooter Preparedness](#)" webinar with discount code ACTIVECOMP100; and "[Active Shooter Events: Creating and Maintaining a Secure Environment](#)" webinar with a discount code for members.

Election 2024 Resources and Voting Information. The upcoming 2024 election days are just around the corner! Ensuring that older adults and people living with disabilities can register to vote—and have access to their polling place—is an important responsibility. Explore our new [Election 2024 Resources](#) webpage for links to register to vote, find your registration status, become a poll worker, and more.

Reminder: HUD Mental Health Training for Service Coordinators. On April 18, HUD launched free, voluntary training for multifamily service coordinators to receive Mental Health First Aid training. The training is available on a rolling basis until 2026. Read more about the opportunity, which LeadingAge applauds, [here](#).

Congress in your Neighborhood. As aging services stakeholders make plans for the summer and fall, now is the perfect time to invite your United States Senators and Representatives to visit your communities and provider organizations. Members of Congress and their staff welcome the opportunity to see and hear first-hand what's happening in their neighborhoods. "Congress in your Neighborhood" provides a step-by-step guide to hosting a Congressional visit! You can invite you members of Congress for a specific event, like a ribbon cutting or ground-breaking. You can also offer them a tour and a meeting with select members of your staff and residents to give them a first-hand look at what you do, who you serve, and the challenges you face. Our step-by-step guide makes it as easy as possible to host an impactful visit. Start planning your community visits today by clicking on our [Congress in Your](#)

[Neighborhood step-by-step guide](#), finding the [contact information for your members of Congress](#), and reviewing the [Congressional schedule](#).