



Senior Housing Weekly

October 18, 2024

Housing Network Call: Monday, October 21, 12:30pm ET. Join our regular Housing Network call on Monday, October 21, at 12:30 p.m. ET. We'll continue our discussion on extreme heat scenarios impacting older adults in affordable housing and provide general updates related to disaster displacement and recovery. We'll also check in on the use of telehealth in affordable housing. 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](#). No call the following week (October 28) during the LeadingAge Annual Meeting in Nashville!

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 Calls on White House to Elevate Older Adults in Extreme Heat Response. In early July, President Biden [called](#) for multiple agencies to coalesce at an Extreme Weather Summit. Following the [summit](#) in mid-September, the White House announced an extreme heat call to action. The call to action was coupled with a [draft Extreme Heat Community Checklist](#) to help municipalities, towns, and tribal organizations prepare for and respond to extreme heat events. LeadingAge submitted comments urging the administration to take better account of the needs of older adults and their vulnerabilities to heat. We urged partnerships between communities and the providers serving older adults and more thoughtful inclusion of older adults and their unique needs and abilities. Our comments suggested broader communications techniques than internet and social media content while prioritizing support that meets older adults where they live. Though the checklist fell short of thought provoking questions that could sway a local government to consider significant investment in making communities more resilient to extreme heat like grants for energy assistance or building retrofit projects, the draft provides communities a starting point for engaging with the public about the risks of extreme heat. You can read our comments [here](#).

Congress Concerned about DEA's Approach to Telehealth Prescribing. On October 11, a group of lawmakers from the House of Representatives pressed the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) over reports that it plans to limit flexibilities allowing health care providers to prescribe controlled substances via telemedicine. In a [letter](#) sent to DEA Administrator Anne Milgram, a group of lawmakers led by Representatives Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (R-GA) took issue with the agency's work to create a special registration process for telemedicine prescribing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the DEA allowed for most controlled medicines, like ADHD medications, to be prescribed via telemedicine rather than in person. As LeadingAge previously [reported](#), DEA has extended the flexibilities twice, and appears poised to extend those flexibilities a third time. The DEA has not said how long the third extension will be. The current flexibilities are set to expire on December 31, 2024. In the letter, lawmakers expressed concern about reports that the DEA ultimately has plans to limit telemedicine

prescribing and the misalignment with legislative intent of the registration program as well as the potential to hurt patient access to necessary drugs. Furthermore, the letter voices concern regarding time running out for DEA to finalize the rule before it reverts back to pre-COVID prescribing requirements on December 31, 2024.

HUD Voucher Program Celebrates 50th Year. On October 16, HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher program celebrated its 50th anniversary. The voucher program, signed into law by President Richard Nixon, now serves more than 2.7 million households, a number that has increased as some of the nation’s public housing stock has deteriorated to the point residents were provided vouchers instead and as vouchers have been provided to Section 8 project-based tenants if their owners convert to market rate. Congress has also increased the number of Housing Choice Vouchers incrementally, if insufficiently, through regular voucher funding and through special purpose vouchers like Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, vouchers for the Family Unification Program, and for non-elderly disabled (NED) vouchers. Housing authorities administer vouchers and can project-base up to 20% of their vouchers through long-term contracts in buildings, including in assisted living communities to help pay shelter costs of income-eligible households. “Since it was created in 1974, the HCV Program has served as our country’s largest rental assistance program, providing millions of families with access to affordable housing in communities of their choice. Thanks to the thousands of Public Housing Agency partners who administer this program and the private market landlords who participate in it, individuals and families are receiving housing and resources, resulting in better health, employment, and educational outcomes,” President Biden said in an October 16 [proclamation](#). The voucher program is one of HUD’s most deeply income-targeted programs, with 77% of households having incomes below 30% of their area median income and an average annual household income of \$17,835. Of all voucher households, 33% have a head of household or spouse 62+. LeadingAge supports the overall voucher program and is specifically [urging Congress to fund new Older Adult Special Purpose Vouchers](#), in part to quickly meet the needs of the rapidly expanding population of older adults experiencing homelessness.

Reminder: Disaster Response Resources for Affordable Senior Housing Providers. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is requesting that affordable housing providers share potential resources by [reporting vacant units to assist](#) with housing survivors displaced as a result of a disaster event. To report vacant units, please use this online reporting form. Please do not complete the form if you do not have any vacancies to report. In addition, LeadingAge has compiled a [disaster preparation and response resource](#) for affordable housing. The resource covers how affordable senior housing providers should prepare for a disaster event and what to expect after an event has occurred.

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.

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 Revises HOTMA Compliance Date. On September 20, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced a six-month delay to compliance requirements](#) for the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA). The current compliance date of January 1, 2025, has been revised to July 1, 2025. HUD is now requiring Multifamily Housing Owners to be in full compliance with the HOTMA final rule and HUD’s updated income and asset documentation requirements for income certifications having an effective date on or after July 1, 2025. USDA’s Rural Housing Service has aligned their implementation date with HUD. Housing providers should continue using current (pre-HOTMA) rules and policies in the meantime. LeadingAge has [advocated](#) for clear communication from HUD on delays, compliance requirements, and resources. HUD has yet to release additional materials, such as a HOTMA-compliant model lease or updated forms. TRACS has also not yet been updated to reflect HOTMA changes. More information is available [here](#).

Reminder: Free COVID Tests for U.S. Households. Starting September 26, every U.S. household can order free at-home COVID-19 tests through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the United States Postal Service (USPS). These tests will detect the currently circulating COVID-19 variants and are intended for use through the end of 2024. Each order will include four tests. [Households can order tests here](#). Different from the above [standard COVID tests](#), “more accessible” tests can be ordered through a [special web page within COVIDtests.gov](#). (To ensure that these tests are reserved for people who truly need them, the link to this special page will not be published on the COVIDtests.gov home page.) These Orasure InteliSwab tests are more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision, as well as people who have low manual dexterity. For more information, including ordering instructions and information about the features that make the InteliSwab test more accessible, please visit [ACL.gov/AccessibleTests](#). *Reminder:* HUD multifamily providers can get free, weekly deliveries of COVID tests for their properties via <https://www.hud.gov/COVID-testing>

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](#).