



Workforce Policy Weekly

November 15, 2024

National Policy Pulse Call. How will the 2024 election results impact aging services policy? Join LeadingAge Monday, November 18, at 3:30 p.m. ET for a special members-only 2024 Election Edition of our National Policy Pulse call. Learn about our 2024 year-end priorities and the potential impact of the elections on aging services policy. Register for the National Policy Pulse call [here](#).

Kennedy Tapped for HHS Secretary. On November 14, President-elect Donald Trump said he has selected Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. “For too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation, and disinformation when it comes to Public Health,” President-elect Trump posted on X. “The Safety and Health of all Americans is the most important role of any Administration, and HHS will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives that have contributed to the overwhelming Health Crisis in this Country.” Hear about the election’s impact on aging services on our November 18 National Policy Pulse call. Register for the call [here](#).

CMS Final 2025 Physician Fee Schedule: Summary of Key Provisions. As we reported on November 4, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued its final Calendar Year 2025 Physician Fee Schedule rule, which updates rates and policies relating to Medicare Part B services delivered in a variety of settings. The final rule includes policy changes that LeadingAge supports, including the establishment of payment for new caregiver training services, as well as certain Medicare telehealth policies. This LeadingAge [article](#) summarizes key aspects of the final rule.

CMMI Releases Report on Re-imagining Rural Health. On November 12, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) published [Re-imagining Rural Health: Themes, Concepts, and Next Steps from the CMS Innovation Center “Hackathon” Series](#). The report describes lessons learned from previous Innovation Center models focused on rural health and their application to recent model development, as well as potential areas the Innovation Center might explore to support rural communities. It also highlights themes and insights from the CMS Innovation Center-hosted [2024 Rural Health Hackathon](#). The Hackathon series convened rural health providers, community organizations, industry and tech entrepreneurs, philanthropies, policy experts, and patients to generate creative and actionable solutions to address the varied challenges to delivering quality health care in rural communities. The top thematic areas highlighted a need for training, regulatory changes, and collaboration to help improve access to care and support transformation. The paper also outlines possible considerations for future Accountable Care Organization-focused and other models. Training needs included a nod to loan repayment programs expanding to non-physicians including skilled nursing facility workers. Regulatory changes included mentions of the Home Health Homebound Waiver for beneficiaries with multiple chronic conditions at risk for hospitalization so they may receive home health services more flexibly. Only one of the winning ideas from the rural health hackathon events focused on creating a model to support viable, community-oriented rural health systems of care to improve perinatal and obstetric (OB) care along with aging and dementia supports.

Last Week’s Recap Updates. Here is the November 8, 2024 [Workforce Update](#).