



Hospice Weekly Recap

April 17, 2026

Weekly National Policy Pulse Calls. Join more than 1000 of your LeadingAge peers for our National Policy Pulse calls where we keep members equipped to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of aging services national policy. The calls are on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. ET. If you're interested in signing up for these members-only calls, please sign up using [the link on our National Policy Pulse webpage](#).

FYI: Lobby Day. On April 14, LeadingAge held our general Know Before You Go webinar for Lobby Day participants. Here are the materials we shared in a follow-up email to all Lobby Day participants (whether or not they joined the webinar):

- As follow up, see Lobby Day resources [here](#) under "Lobby Day April 2026."
- If you missed the training or would like to view it again - [watch the zoom video recording](#).
- Here is a PDF copy of the [PowerPoint slides](#).

Hospice Long Length of Stay: Compliance Strategies. In this 29-minute [QuickCast](#), LeadingAge offers practical guidance on reducing aggregate hospice cap risk and strengthening documentation practices for patients who are on hospice services for longer periods.

Hospice Webinar on Medicare Cost Report E-Filing System. On Wednesday, April 22 from 1–3 p.m. ET the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be [hosting a webinar](#) to support hospices to understand the new and upcoming functionality for Medicare Part A cost reports and hospice cap determinations in the Medicare Cost Report e-filing (MCR eF) system, including: Ready-made Provider Statistical & Reimbursement summary reports on the home page, new dashboard for tracking hospice cap status, review dates, and documentation for cap determinations, tips and reminders on common questions, like how to e-file Home Office Cost Statements, get feedback on cost report exhibits, and avoid common problems, and quick refresher on how to e-file one cost report or many. The webinar will include a live Q&A session and an opportunity to provide feedback. You may also send questions in advance to OFMDPAOQuestions@cms.hhs.gov with "MCR eF Webinar" in the subject line. We'll answer your questions during the webinar or use them to develop educational materials. Register for this webinar [here](#).

House Hearing on Medicare Fraud. On April 21, the House Committee on Ways and Means will hold a hearing, "Protecting Patients and Taxpayers: Cracking Down on Medicare Fraud." According to a Committee press release, the hearing will examine "the prevalence of fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare and efforts to combat fraud to protect patients and taxpayers." Hearing witnesses have not been announced. LeadingAge will monitor the hearing and anticipated submitting a statement for the hearing record.

Nonprofit Voter Engagement. With the midterm election season already upon us, questions inevitably arise about how nonprofit organizations can participate meaningfully in voter engagement while still remaining nonpartisan. A coalition of nonprofit organizations, consisting of Independent Sector, Nonprofit VOTE, Alliance for Justice's Bolder Advocacy program and the League of Women Voters, are launching Voices in Action, a national nonpartisan initiative designed to help nonprofit leaders turn everyday community impact into meaningful civic engagement. The kickoff [webinar](#) for his initiative will be on May 5, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET. Additional resources on nonprofit voter engagement, including a [Voter Engagement Guide](#), can be found at [Voting and Community Engagement | National Council of Nonprofits](#).

Highlights of President’s Budget Request for CMS and CDC. The President’s Budget Request was released on April 3. LeadingAge released [an overview of topline budget requests](#) impacting LeadingAge members. A deeper dive into the HHS budget, highlighting key requests for CMS and CDC, is [available here](#). The President’s annual budget request is regarded as a messaging tool for the administration; members of Congress draft their own funding bills for various programs, including programs impacting older adults and those who serve them. LeadingAge will continue to monitor the annual appropriations process.

OSHA's Revised National Emphasis Program on Heat-Related Hazards. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a [directive](#) on April 10, 2026, which revises its implementation of a National Emphasis Program (NEP) to protect employees from outdoor and indoor heat-related hazards. Among the NEP’s revisions is an updated list of targeted industries for programmed inspections on days that the National Weather Service has announced a heat warning or advisory for the local area. One of the newly targeted industries is NAICS Code 6241 – Individual and Family Services, which may include adult day care centers, companion services, and home care. OSHA’s regional or area offices must implement a 90-day outreach program for newly targeted industries before any programmed inspections. The directive is in effect for 5 years.

IRS Issues No Tax on Tips Final Rule. The Internal Revenue Service's final rule on Occupations That Customarily and Regularly Receive Tips; Definition of Qualified Tips is available for [public inspection](#) with a publication date of April 13, 2026, in the Federal Register. This rule implements Section 70201 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which establishes a tax deduction of up to \$25,000 for qualified tips. Qualified tips are defined as cash tips received by an individual in an occupation that customarily and regularly received tips on or before December 31, 2024, as provided by the Secretary of Treasury. The rule designates 71 such occupations, which include dining room attendants, personal care and service workers, hairdressers, and hairstylists. To be considered a “qualified tip,” the amount must: (a) be paid voluntarily without any consequence in the event of nonpayment; (b) not be the subject of negotiation; and (c) be determined by the payor. The “no tax on tips” deduction is in effect for the 2025 tax year and is set to expire after the 2028 tax year. Watch for an analysis of this final rule from LeadingAge in the coming days.

Last Week’s Recap Update. Here is the April 10, 2026 [Hospice Update](#).