



## Medicaid, HCBS, and PACE Weekly Recap

April 17, 2026

**Next PACE Network Call:** Tuesday April 21, 2026 @ 1 p.m. ET; Register [here](#)

**Next Adult Day Network Call:** April 23, 2026 @ 1 p.m. ET; Register [here](#)

**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](#).

**PACE Audits: From Basics to Best Practices.** Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released their [Final PACE Audit Protocol](#). LeadingAge partnered with Husch Blackwell's Senior Counsel, Andrew Brenton to provide members with a [QuickCast](#) outlining a high level overview of CMS's new PACE audit protocol. This easily consumable, 12-minute session will set providers up to better understand the stages and timeframes in the new audit protocol and provides a few strategies to prepare for your next audit. With actionable steps and additional resources, this quickcast provides PACE organizations with a great first step in understanding the updated PACE Audit protocol. Feedback on the session is always welcome to Georgia ([ggoodman@leadingage.org](mailto:ggoodman@leadingage.org)).

**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.

**Advocacy Opportunity! Senate Letter on Congressional Investment in Senior Housing Programs.** In support of strong funding for affordable housing for low-income older adults, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) is asking his Senate colleagues to join a letter to Senate Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appropriations leaders. LeadingAge and our members support this effort each year: Please reach out to your Senate offices to ask them to join the letter, which requests strong funding for key HUD programs, like Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, and Section 811, Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities. As of early April, roughly twenty Senators have signed on, and we are pushing for at least 20 more to join the effort. Senators can sign on using this [link](#) (*the link will only work for Senate staff*). Specific asks include full funding for contract renewals for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program; an additional \$600 million for capital advances and operating subsidies for 2,000 new 202 homes to meet increasing need; \$50 million to fund a new Older Adult Special Purpose Housing Choice Voucher program for 5,000 older adults; \$10 million in Rental Assistance Demonstration conversion subsidy to support

preservation of 202 homes; and strong funding to renew and expand service coordinators in 202 housing. The “Dear Colleague” [letter mirrors LeadingAge’s top priorities for affordable senior housing funding](#) for Fiscal Year 2027. For assistance identifying or reaching out to your lawmakers, please reach out to [Juliana Bilowich](#).

**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.

**House Passes Measure to Extend Haiti TPS.** A coalition of Republicans joined Democrats in the House of Representatives on April 16, 2026, to advance legislation extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti, underscoring a growing consensus that Haitian families—and the U.S. communities that rely on their work—need stability. The bill, brought to the floor via [discharge petition](#), would extend Haiti TPS for three years, allowing eligible Haitian nationals already living in the United States to continue working legally and remain protected from deportation as Haiti faces ongoing instability and humanitarian strain. Supporters argue the extension is both a moral imperative and a practical response to workforce shortages, particularly in health care and direct care roles where many Haitian TPS holders are employed. As efforts to diminish or eliminate TPS over the past year have intensified, LeadingAge has pushed to protect it, citing the importance of a stable long-term care workforce. “Foreign-born workers have long been essential to the nation’s aging services sector, and the termination of Haitian TPS is one of many recent immigration policy changes that are exacerbating the aging services sector’s well-documented and increasing workforce needs,” said LeadingAge President and CEO Katie Smith Sloan [earlier this week](#). “We need immigration policies that strengthen, rather than destabilize, the caregiving workforce older adults and families depend on.” The measure passed with key Republican “yes” votes from Reps. Maria Elvira Salazar, Mario Díaz-Balart, Carlos Giménez (all of Florida), and others including Rep. Rich McCormick (GA), Rep. Don Bacon (NE), Rep. Mike Lawler (NY), Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (NY), Rep. Mike Carey (OH), Rep. Mike Turner (OH), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), and Rep. Kevin Kiley (CA). The bill, HR 1689, was introduced by Reps. Laura Gillen (D-NY) and Rep. Lawler. “Haitians in my district are healthcare workers, small business owners, and faith leaders. They are an integral part of our community. That is why I worked to introduce this bill, led letters to the Administration about working towards a solution, and ultimately signed a discharge petition to bring this bill to the floor for consideration,” Rep. Lawler said in a [statement](#) after the House vote. The bill now heads to the Senate, where supporters are urging swift action to keep work authorization and protections in place. Link to this article [here](#).

**Last Weekly:** [Medicaid, HCBS, and PACE Weeklies](#)