

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

July 17, 2020

Service Coordinator CARES Act Allocation – LeadingAge received additional information on the forthcoming Service Coordinator allocations from the CARES Act announced in a HUD [memo](#) on July 10th: In the next few weeks, HUD will be issuing a prescriptive list of allowable uses for the funds. The funds will be for the same purposes under the grants, except that the expenses would have to be justified as higher due to COVID-19; the agency will also likely allow providers to use the funds for some areas outside of the normal grant. The agency also said that even grants that have not yet received their 2020 extension will be eligible to receive the CARES Act supplemental once their extension is approved.

HUD makes progress on CARES Act funding allocations – Nearly four months after Congress approved \$50 million in emergency relief funds for senior housing providers in the CARES Act, HUD is making progress to get the funds out to communities. The agency said they soon plan to issue guidance for budget-funded Service Coordination and other COVID-related expenses out of the remaining \$40 million for Section 202, as well as remaining funds for the Project-Based Section 8 program. Owners are expected to have to “request” funds by demonstrating increased COVID-19 expenses.

RAD for PRAC form comments – LeadingAge submitted comments on HUD’s [proposed RAD for PRAC forms](#). The information collection included supporting contracts and process documents, such as the conversion and use agreements, for Section 202 PRACs participating in the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. In addition to specific comments embedded on proposed forms, LeadingAge submitted an overarching response thanking the agency for its work to preserve the senior housing portfolio. Our comments also emphasized the need for resident protections through conversions, extenuating circumstances to accommodate disasters and pandemics, clarity on subsidy layering and funding sources, support for owners to fulfill their certification obligations, and electronic file transmission to relieve burden. LeadingAge also recently [hosted a call](#) with HUD’s Director of the Office of Recapitalization, which oversees the RAD, to hear general (and COVID-19) updates to the preservation program and to discuss the proposed forms.

Updated HUD Progress Chart – HUD has recently taken action on several LeadingAge requests, including to provide senior housing protections during resumed physical inspections, vacancy claim flexibility, and temporarily-adapted MORs. We’ve updated our [chart that tracks HUD progress](#) during COVID-19.

HUD issues evictions guidance – Housing communities are only days away from the expiration of evictions protections enacted by the CARES Act. HUD recently published additional information for owners and residents of HUD-assisted housing about the expiring evictions moratorium. To help communities navigate what could be an impending “evictions cliff” after the CARES Act moratorium expires on July 24th, HUD’s Office of Multifamily Housing issued a [Notice on tenant protections and forbearance](#) for HUD-assisted housing communities; HUD also issued a [brochure to help multifamily property owners promote housing stability](#) during the pandemic.

RHS on evictions moratorium – The Rural Housing Service [updated its frequently asked questions](#) to include reminders and suggestions for owners as the end of the CARES Act evictions moratorium nears. RHS reminds owners that late fees cannot have accumulated over the 120-day moratorium, and that some tenants may be in need of a second interim income recertification.

Act for Older Adults Hill Briefing – LeadingAge is holding an [Act for Older Adults](#) Act for Older Adults briefing for Senate and House staff on July 21 at 12noon EST. Congress will be in the final weeks of deciding on the scope of its next COVID-19 relief package. The Senate and House have a chance to deliver the action and resources that are desperately needed by aging services providers like nursing homes, home and community based care, and affordable senior housing providers. At this briefing, Hill staff will hear the latest on the testing, PPE, and financial relief needed in the next COVID-19 relief package. Please email [Linda](#) if you'd like to send the briefing invitation to your federal delegation.

Housing Advisory Group Call – Join your LeadingAge housing policy team and other housing providers for federal updates and peer-sharing about COVID-19. Our next Housing Advisory Group call will be held on Monday, [July 20, at 12:30 EST](#) and will discuss the latest issues from the field. To join our Housing Advisory Group, email [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

LeadingAge Daily Calls – We have extended our daily 3:30pm EST live call updates through July. Every week, we feature affordable housing and other aging services provider members to share their COVID-19 experiences. Need to adjust your registration or sign up? Visit the [registration page](#) (again) so you'll never miss an update. You can also access recordings of these Monday – Friday calls under "[Member Communications](#)."