

# Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

June 19, 2020

**Act for Older Lives! Day of Action.** This week, we launched a new campaign, [Act for Older Adults](#). The campaign rallies all Americans to urge Congress to enact legislation to deliver crucial resources to older adults and aging services providers. We sent a letter to Congress filled with robust and detailed asks on behalf of our members. Now we're asking every member organization to do your part to ensure Congress hears our collective voice.

Congress will hear us loud and clear on June 23, the National Day of Action for Older Adults. Visit [LeadingAge.org/Act](#) to find ways to take action, amplify your voice, and learn more about the campaign. Be sure to download our social media [infocards](#) and [banners](#) to help us promote this day of action.

**Housing, Healthcare Infrastructure Package** – Yesterday, House Democrats introduced a \$1.5 trillion [infrastructure bill](#) to help spur the economy. The proposal includes key investments in housing, including to build new and preserve existing affordable homes, and to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITHC) program. The proposal also invests in broadband access and healthcare capacity to respond to COVID-19. We'll have more updates once the bill text is available.

## **Reopening Considerations for Affordable Housing Providers**

In this new, 19-minute QuickCast, Juliana Bilowich reviews [reopening guidance](#) from HUD and the CDC, as well as important factors senior housing communities should consider for long-term crisis recovery.

**Pandemic Disaster Preparedness** – FEMA published an [exercise starter kit](#) for providers to update emergency response plans during the health crisis. The kit includes sample slides and discussion questions for providers across the continuum to adapt current hurricane (or other) disaster response plans to the pandemic.

**Diagnostic Testing Support for Housing Providers** – To help housing providers partner with health departments to help low-income, at-risk residents access COVID-19 testing, we developed a template email/letter to help affordable housing providers [partner with their local health departments on diagnostic testing](#) and other supports through COVID-19. The template helps providers locate their help department based on zip code or city/county, and then requests support based on the challenges for housing providers and their residents to access testing.

**Staff travel and vacations.** On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we posted an [article on staff travel and vacation leave](#), outlining the CDC guidance, some examples of what members are doing, and the legal considerations for providers creating an organization policy for staff personal travel in the age of COVID-19.

**CDBG as Resource for Senior Housing COVID-19 Costs.** Since March 27, state and local governments have received \$3 billion of the CARES Act's \$5 billion for COVID-19 relief from HUD's Community Development Block Grants program. We're hearing that some state and local governments, the receivers of these funds,

are very eager for partners to help them efficiently and effectively use these dollars. Funds could be used for PPE, for meals and food, and for cleaning and disinfecting, among other uses. Here's a link to [an article about CDBG as a resource](#)

**Virtual Congressional meetings.** Thank you to our members and state partners in Illinois, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Texas, Minnesota, Maine and Massachusetts for working with us to host virtual congressional meetings with key targets and LeadingAge members from your states. In the past few weeks, we have had more than 20 meetings with congressional staff. Let us know if you would like to join the action.

**HUD Regulatory Progress Chart** - As LeadingAge continues to press HUD for urgent actions to support housing providers serving older adults, we've taken stock of the progress, and the outstanding actions, needed from HUD. The LeadingAge [progress chart on HUD's COVID-19 regulatory response](#) is categorized by management operations and financial support for providers, outlines the status of the action from the agency, and includes links for members to access more information on each regulatory item.

**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, June 22, 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 June. If you are registered, you received a confirmation email, which you can use to update your personal calendar appointment. Can't find your email or need to 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](#)."