



Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth Act (HEAT) Reintroduced in the Senate. The Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth Act (HEAT) Act (S. 1309) was reintroduced in the Senate. It was reintroduced by Senators Collins (R-ME), Cardin (D-MD), Shaheen (D-NH), and Marshall (R-KS). This bill would allow for reimbursement for home health services furnished via video or audio telecommunications during a public health emergency.

LeadingAge Update Calls Next Week. LeadingAge update calls at 3:30 PM ET next week are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. We are finalizing Monday's speaker. On Wednesday, Vicki Loucks of Redstone Presbyterian Seniorcare will join us to talk about her experiences with Temporary Nurse Aides. Is this a model we can work with going forward....and how? On Thursday, Dr. Kara Jacobs-Slifka will once again join the call, this time to talk about the new nursing home guidance we are expecting on Friday, April 23 (tomorrow). If you haven't registered for Update Calls and wish to, you can do so [here](#).

What's on Congress's Agenda. Based on conversations with key Senate and House leadership staff, LeadingAge has developed an article that provides an outlook for upcoming Congressional action on "What's on Congress's Agenda." We highlight: the CMS/HHS nominations; President Joe Biden's Joint Session; The American Jobs Plan - infrastructure process; the President's FY22 Budget Request; and the timing of immigration reform legislation. You can access the article [here](#).

Alternative infrastructure plan. A group of Senate Republicans led by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) on Thursday unveiled a \$568 billion infrastructure proposal, a much smaller counteroffer to President Biden's \$2.3 trillion American Jobs Plan. The proposal seeks to define infrastructure more narrowly compared to Biden's expansive view of the issue, focusing on roads and bridges, public transit systems, rail, wastewater infrastructure, airports and broadband infrastructure. Notably for LeadingAge members, the proposal does not include anything about the "care infrastructure," like the \$400B HCBS proposals in the American Jobs Plan. LeadingAge continues to advocate that the aging infrastructure is part of the American infrastructure. There will be many more proposals and trade-offs; this conversation on infrastructure is just getting underway.

ARP Tax Credits Available to Small Employers to Provide Paid Leave to Employees Receiving COVID-19 Vaccines: President Biden is calling on every employer in America to [offer full pay to their employees for any time off needed to get vaccinated](#) and for any time it takes to recover from the after-effects of vaccination. He announced a paid leave tax credit that will offset the cost for employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide full pay for any time their employees need to get a COVID-19 vaccination or recover from that vaccination. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released and posted a [fact sheet](#) to

educate employers on how to claim the paid sick leave credit on their quarterly tax filings. The U.S. Department of the Treasury also outlines the tax credits available to small employers in their press release [here](#). Moreover, President Biden called on employers to use their unique resources to provide information about how people can get vaccinated and why people should get vaccinated.

Senator Murray Elevates LeadingAge Workforce Policy Priority. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, held a hearing, [“COVID-19 Recovery: Supporting Workers and Modernizing the Workforce Through Quality Education, Training, and Employment Opportunities.”](#) Prior to the conclusion of the hearing, Chair Murray posed a question, to witness, Deniece Thomas, Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Learning and Development for the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The question asked about the shortage of home care workers and trained caregivers, and how the shortage will essentially get worse as more people continue to age, and how we need assistance with recruiting these needed workers. You can view the hearing [here](#), and an article [here](#).

Provider Relief Fund Issue Resolution Contact: For members who have encountered issues with obtaining Provider Relief Funds, the new administration would like members/providers to reach out to HRSA (the division of HHS handling PRF) directly by emailing: ProviderReliefContact@hrsa.gov HRSA did not specify any limits to the inquiries that a provider could make using this email address but some issues may include: TIN Validation issues, missing funds, etc. If members are unable to resolve issues successfully, they can still reach out to Nicole (NFallon@leadingage.org) for possible escalation of the issue.

CDC Foundation Request for Proposals to Support Community-Based Organizations to Increase Vaccination Coverage. The CDC Foundation is putting out a [request for proposals](#) for \$50-100K grants aimed at Supporting Community-based Organizations to Increase Vaccination Coverage Across Different Racial and Ethnic Adult Populations Currently Experiencing Disparities. The grants are aimed at community based organizations; there are LeadingAge members who would likely qualify. If interested, [please read the eligibility criteria carefully](#) – these grants are not aimed at covering the costs of providing clinical services (e.g. administering vaccines). There are also restrictions on who can own the entity applying (e.g. not a university or hospital, but it can be a foundation associated with a clinical care provider). The turnaround time is [very fast](#). The RFPs are due by **May 3, 2021**. [Here](#) are the RFP, slides from a CDC presentation on the opportunity, and an FAQ.

Vaccine Equity and Access Program: Request for Proposals. Community Catalyst has launched the [Vaccine Equity and Access Program](#), a national initiative that supports community-based organizations led by and working with people of color to facilitate information about, and access to, vaccines. This program is part of a broader effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to reduce adult vaccination disparities, specifically those in COVID-19 and influenza vaccination rates. [Learn more and apply](#).

Fostering Emotional Wellbeing Among Team Members. Is your organization doing enough to care for the psychological wellness of its staff? A comprehensive systems approach can help make sure your employees are getting the support they need. Learn what this means, and why it’s so important for your organization during this [19-minute QuickCast](#) that’s free to LeadingAge members.