

# MONDAY

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ONLINE

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# MAILING

Posted:08-25-2008

## Top Stories

### E-Health Grant Program Deadline is Sept. 5

The Minnesota Department of Health's e-health grant program, which is intended to help finance the planning or implementation of interoperable electronic health records related applications or health information exchange, will accept applications until **Friday, Sept. 5**.

Eligible applicants include community e-health collaboratives (which can include care centers), community clinics and regional or community-based health information exchange organizations. Funding is targeted to rural and medically underserved areas.

The program has available a state appropriation of \$3.5 million. The program offers readiness assessment and planning grants of up to \$50,000, as well as implementation grants of up to \$750,000. The program requires a one-to-three match. Several MHHA members were in collaboratives that were awarded grants in 2007.

The department also has a revolving loan program that provides interest-free loans for up to six years to assist in financing the installation or support of interoperable electronic health records. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants, including community clinics, rural hospitals, and physician clinics in towns with population under 50,000, nursing facilities, and other health care provider or services. The amount available is \$3.15 million.

Program descriptions, instructions, application forms and other materials are available at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/orhpc/funding/index.html#ehr>.

#### **For Further Information:**

Contact Anne Schloegel at [Anne.Schloegel@health.state.mn.us](mailto:Anne.Schloegel@health.state.mn.us).

### Rate Notices To Be Available Later This Week

DHS staff has indicated to MHHA that they expect rate notices to be available for all nursing facilities by some time later this week.

The rate notices are no longer mailed to facilities, but will be available for download through the nursing facility portal on the DHS web site at <http://tinyurl.com/659thc>. Members are reminded that they need a username and password from DHS to access this site.

The rate notices include the first adjustment for the rebasing of rates, and DHS recently completed the calculation of the floor and ceiling that are applied to the rebasing adjustment this year. Every facility will receive at least a 1 percent increase as a rebasing adjustment, and to pay for that floor DHS needed to determine a ceiling on rate increases for this year.

As MHHA had estimated, the ceiling is a little more than 3 percent, at 3.2 percent. In addition to the rebasing adjustment, all nursing facilities will receive two 1 percent COLAs added to their operating rate. In total, all facilities will receive an operating rate increase of at least 3 percent, and those whose rebasing adjustment makes them subject to the ceiling will receive an increase of 5.2 percent.

Facilities are required by law to provide notice to their private pay residents of the increase effective Oct. 1. The law requires 30 days notice, which is reduced by one day for every day the rate notice arrives after Aug. 15. If rate notices are released Wednesday, for example, then facilities will be required to give notice by twelve days after Sept. 1, or Sept. 13.

Providing notice by that date gives your residents the information about the change in rate more than two weeks before it takes effect. Of course, members can provide notice of the rate increase at any point after their rate notices is available.

#### **For Further Information:**

Contact Jeff Bostic at [jbostic@mhha.com](mailto:jbostic@mhha.com).

### CMS Adopts Sprinkler Rule--Deadline Is August 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services published its final rule on sprinklers in certified facilities last week. The rule--"Fire Safety Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities, Automatic Sprinkler Systems"--requires all certified facilities to

be fully sprinklered by Aug. 13, 2013, with an approved, automatic sprinkler system.

However, prior to this date, the rule also requires facilities to maintain their automatic sprinkler systems once they are installed. The rule is effective on Oct. 14.

These systems must be installed in accordance with the 1999 edition of NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, and maintained in accordance with the 1998 edition of NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, once they are installed. CMS incorporated these older editions so that facilities will continue to be in compliance with the provisions of the 2000 edition of NFPA 101, the current adopted Life Safety Code standard.

The requirement will apply regardless of construction type. If the facility is located within another building (e.g., a hospital), the long-term care unit will be required to be fully sprinklered. The requirement does not permit alternative means of compliance, such as waivers or performance-based design.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com).

### **Carbon Monoxide Alarms--Information You Need**

The law requiring owners to install carbon monoxide alarms near sleeping rooms in multi-family dwellings, which includes senior housing and care centers, takes effect August 1, 2009. Some members will qualify for exceptions, but some will not. For example, if an apartment or residence room has a fireplace, a gas stove, a gas dryer, a gas water heater, or any other fuel-burning appliance, the building is not eligible for an exception. MHHA has prepared an *Issues Update*, "CO Alarms," (Number 127, Aug. 25, 2008) that contains information that members will need in order to evaluate whether they qualify for an exception and whether the exception will be cost effective. To download the *Issues Update*, click here <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/COAlarmsIssuesUpdate127-082508.pdf>.

### **News Briefs**

#### **CMS Releases Draft MDS 3.0 Crosswalk**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a draft version last week of the crosswalk between the MDS 2.0 and the MDS 3.0 forms.

Although CMS may make additional changes to the MDS 3.0, the final version is likely to be very similar to the current draft form. CMS will release the final list of MDS 3.0 items in March, 2009, and all certified facilities will begin using it on Oct. 1, 2009.

The crosswalk identifies specific items as follows:

- N - New item on the MDS 3.0
- R - Revised item on the MDS 3.0
- NC - No change in the item on the MDS 3.0
- D - Dropped from the MDS 3.0

The crosswalk also describes the changes, which often are in the directions for particular items.

Members can download the MDS Crosswalk by clicking here <http://www.mhha.com/inc/data/MDSCrosswalkDraftAug112008.pdf>.

**For further Information:**

Contact Liz Sether at [lsether@mhha.com](mailto:lsether@mhha.com) or Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mhha.com](mailto:dshreve@mhha.com).

### **Health Care Engineers to Meet Sept. 17-19**

The Minnesota Health Care Engineers Association will hold its 33rd annual fall seminar and vendor show Sept. 17-19 at Grand Casino in Hinkley.

The seminar includes a full day of programs on Thursday (including a presentation by Jim Loveland of the engineering section of the Minnesota Department of Health and one by Tom Linhoff of the State Fire Marshal's office), as well as a golf tournament on Wednesday and a program and business meeting on Friday morning.

MHHA encourages its members to have their health care engineers participate in the MHCEA programs, which occur in the fall and the spring.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Dave Danielson at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd at 218-829-2861. The cost of registration is \$75, and the registration deadline is Sept. 5.

Contact Grand Casino Hinkley Hotel regarding hotel accommodations at 800-468-3517.

Contact Ken Gutknecht at 218-444-4998 or [kenvic@paulbunyan.net](mailto:kenvic@paulbunyan.net) regarding the golf tournament.

## Funds Available to Support Building Green

Various funds are now available to support "green" buildings and communities from Enterprise and Kresge Foundation.

Applications for Green Communities Grants from Enterprise Community Partners are due Sept. 18, with awards expected in early November.

Grants of up to \$50,000 to cover planning and construction expenses including additional costs of architectural work, engineering, site surveys and costs associated with items such as a more efficient HVAC system, green materials and energy efficient appliance are available. Loans and tax credit equity are also available. Enterprise offers two funding rounds each year.

Enterprise administers the Green Communities Grants program in consultation with other collaborating corporations and foundations, which presently include:

- The Home Depot Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Citigroup Foundation
- Surdna Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase
- The Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

Individual grant requests will be reviewed and acted on by a grants committee that includes Enterprise staff. More information is available at <http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/tools/funding/grants/>.

The Kresge Foundation's Green Building Initiative offers planning grants for sustainable design. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 are available to support the integrated design process for the following projects:

- Renovation
- Historic preservation
- New construction designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification at the Platinum level from the U.S. Green Building Council (see <http://www.usgbc.org/>)
- New construction designed to meet the Cascadia Region Green Building Council's Living Building Challenge (see <http://www.cascadiagbc.org/lbc/>; also endorsed by the U.S. Green Building Council)
- New construction designed to be net-zero energy efficient (the facility produces as much energy as it consumes each year)

More information on the Kresge Foundation's program is found at <http://www.kresge.org/content/displaycontent.aspx?CID=59>.

## Senate Appropriations Committee Increases 202 Funds

Like the House Subcommittee, the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided \$765 million for Section 202 funding in the fiscal year 2009 Transportation and HUD funding bill, an increase of \$30 million over the 2008 funding and \$225 million more than the President's request. The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$623.4 million for capital advances, PRAC and PRAC renewals and amendment funds
- \$15 million for the administration's leveraged mixed financing demonstration
- \$80 million for service coordinators (to cover renewals and some new grants)
- \$25 million for Assisted Living Conversion grants and emergency repair grants, and
- \$20 million for predevelopment funding grants.

The Senate also approved an increase of more than one billion dollars over the budget request and more than two billion dollars over the 2008 appropriation for project-based Section 8 renewals in an effort to "restore some stability" to the renewal process, allowing longer term renewals instead of two to four month renewals.

The Senate also included several provisions and new authorities from the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2008, S. 2736. The appropriations bill provides the explicit authority necessary to refinance the 3 percent interest Section 202 mortgages as an administrative provision under Section 232. The bill also will provide funding for new project-based assistance for seniors residing in the Section 202 properties built between 1959 and 1974 who do not now have rental assistance when the buildings are refinanced.

The assistance will be funded from the tenant protection account to prevent displacement when rents inevitably rise after refinancing and rehabilitation. Finally the bill language requires that state or local housing agencies--rather than HUD--process the funding that HUD awards for HUD's leveraged mixed financing demonstration. This requirement adapts Section 102 of S.

2736 that would streamline the processing of new mixed finance Section 202 applications, eliminating the frequent bottlenecks that HUD processing entails.

The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) reports that there is no schedule for floor action on the bill. AAHSA is encouraged that when the legislation finally is adopted (and it could be next year), there will be increases for the 202 and Section 8 programs as well as some relief and reform for the preservation of the Section 202 properties.

For more details about S. 2736 please visit the Library of Congress web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. AAHSA continues to encourage providers to contact their senators to encourage additional co-sponsors for S. 2736.

MHHA members can contact Senators Coleman and Klobuchar by going to [http://www.mhha.com/index/Become\\_Active](http://www.mhha.com/index/Become_Active).

### **Congress Passes Delegated Processing for Section 202 Mixed Finance Projects**

For those 202 sponsors who have struggled to combine Section 202 capital advances with tax credits and those who wish to do so in the future, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) has a legislative victory.

Buried in the Government Sponsored Enterprise/FHA reform legislation is the requirement that in the case of mixed finance Section 202 projects that combine Section 202 capital advances and tax credits or other funding, HUD shall transfer the processing of the proposals after their selection to state or local housing agencies.

The language is taken directly from the provision included in HR 2930 and S 2736, the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act, passed by the House and awaiting action in the Senate. According to AAHSA, this has the potential of greatly increasing the efficiency with which deals are processed and could bring projects to construction with fewer delays, particularly for tax credit transactions.

Specifically, the legislation provides for delegated processing of the capital advances which include sources other than Section 202 funding by state or local housing entities within 30 days of the award of capital advance funds and PRAC amounts pursuant to the NOFA. HUD still retains the authority to approve final rents and development costs but is required to execute the capital advance within 60 days of receipt of the commitment from the state or local agency. If HUD reduces either the capital advance or the initial PRAC, HUD is required to state reasons in writing and sponsors may appeal the reductions.

A detailed summary of the GSE/FHA reform legislation, described previously in *Monday Mailing*, is found at [http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/financialsvcs\\_dem/press072308.shtml](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/financialsvcs_dem/press072308.shtml).

The Senate Appropriations bill also has the authority for delegated processing for HUD's mixed financing demonstration, but this provision will apply to all mixed financing proposals.

Implementation should speed up the processing and eliminate the dual reviews and bureaucratic HUD requirements that have plagued previous mixed financing transactions since combining 202 funding with tax credits was possible.

#### **For further information:**

Contact Nancy Libson, AAHSA, at [nlibson@aahsa.org](mailto:nlibson@aahsa.org).

### **HUD Model Leases Now Posted**

Fillable versions of HUD's model leases have been posted and corrections to the Section 202 lease have been made. Current versions can be viewed at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/forms/hud9.cfm>, including:

- FRMS HUD-90105-A Model Lease for Subsidized Programs
- FRMS HUD-90105-B Model Lease for Section 202/8 or Section 202 PAC
- FRMS HUD-90105-C Model Lease for Section 202 PRAC

### **AAHSA Resource Available to Help You Honor Your Staff on Labor**

On Labor Day, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) encourages providers to celebrate direct care workers and their work for the people you serve.

To help plan ways to honor these important workers, AAHSA has developed a free, six page Labor Day Planning Guide, found at [http://www.aahsa.org/pubs\\_resources/documents/Labor\\_Day\\_PlanningFINAL2008.pdf](http://www.aahsa.org/pubs_resources/documents/Labor_Day_PlanningFINAL2008.pdf). The guide includes event ideas, sample advertisements, media outreach materials and more.

#### **For Further Information:**

Contact: Sarah Mashburn, AAHSA, at [smashburn@aahsa.org](mailto:smashburn@aahsa.org).

### **DHS to Offer Videoconference on Disability Services and Resources**

Registration is now open for the Tuesday, Sept. 9, Disability Services Training, Technical Assistance, and Resources Videoconference, offered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The program will be offered at various locations around the state at 9:30 a.m. to noon and again at 1:30-4 p.m.

A flyer is located at [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16\\_141875.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_141875.pdf). Handouts are located at [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16\\_142150.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_142150.pdf).

The target audience is county staff, particularly new hires who need an overview of the training, technical assistance and resources available from the DHS Disability Services Division, but providers who work with the CAC, CADI and TBI waivers may find this useful.

To register, visit <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink> and select Disability Services from the left side of the page. Participants will need a Unique Key to register for training. New participants must visit <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/TrainLink> and select Unique Key Request to obtain a Unique Key.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Barbara Skoglund at [barbara.askoglund@state.mn.us](mailto:barbara.askoglund@state.mn.us).

**Social Security Retirement Benefits Calculator Available Online Now**

The Social Security Administration has announced the release of a new online calculator that will provide immediate and personalized benefit estimates to help people plan for their retirement. The Retirement Estimator is tied to a person's actual Social Security earnings record and eliminates the need to manually key in years of earnings information. The calculator is found at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator/>.

**Prudential Financial Reports LTC Costs Up 5-13 Percent in Two Years**

As a whole, long-term care costs have increased 5 to 13 percent in the past two years, according to the recently released 2008 Long-Term Care Cost Study research report from Prudential Financial. Here are some of the findings from this report:

- The largest cost increase was among assisted living settings, increasing about 13 percent compared to 2006. The average daily cost in an assisted living community in 2008 is over \$100, or \$3,241 per month.
- Nursing home rates increased more than 7 percent over the past two years. The average daily cost of a private nursing home room in 2008 is \$217, or \$79,205 annually.
- Annual rates for a semi-private room cost on average about 11% less than private room accommodations--averaging \$194 daily, or \$70,810 a year.
- Home health care experienced the smallest rate increase, rising 5 percent over the past two years. The average hourly rate for a home health aide/certified nursing assistant increased by \$1 over the past two years to \$21.
- Almost half of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities interviewed expect to raise their rates over the next year; one in four home health care agencies expects an increase in costs in 2009.

The full report, found at <http://www.prudential.com/media/managed/LTCCostStudy.pdf>, provides some state- and city-specific data.

**Question of the Week**

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***Q. Last week an OSHA inspector visited our facility, and she said we were supposed to have a written policy on safe patient handling by July 1. I thought the date was later. What is the correct date?***

***Answer:*** The deadline for adopting a written policy was July 1. This is also the deadline for establishing your committee (or, more likely, using an existing committee). The deadline for using the equipment is Jan. 1, 2011. Here is our summary from the MHHA Legislative Report for 2007:

The Safe Patient Handling Program (SPHP) requires hospitals, outpatient surgical centers and nursing homes to adopt a written safe patient handling policy by July 1, 2008. The policy must outline how the provider will achieve the goal of minimizing manual lifting of patients by nurses and other direct patient care workers by utilizing safe patient handling equipment by Jan.1, 2011.

The SPHP should address: (1) an assessment of hazards with regard to patient handling; (2) the acquisition of an adequate supply of appropriate safe patient handling equipment; (3) initial and ongoing training of nurses and other direct care workers on the use of equipment; (4) procedures to ensure that physical plant modifications and major construction projects are consistent with program goals; and (5) periodic evaluations of the safe patient handling program.

Providers must establish a safe patient handling committee, or utilize an existing committee for this purpose by July 1. The committee must meet the following criteria: (a) at least half the members must be nonmanagerial nurses and other direct care workers; and (b) where nurses and direct care workers are covered by a collective bargaining agreement; the union shall select the committee members proportionate to its representation.

For organizations with more than one facility, they may choose to have a committee at each facility or one overall committee for multiple facilities. Employees who serve on a safe patient handling committee must be compensated for their time on committee business. The committee shall complete a patient handling hazard assessment, make recommendations on the purchase, use and maintenance of equipment, make recommendations on training, conduct annual evaluations of the safe patient handling plan and recommend procedures to incorporate safe patient handling into remodeling projects.

**For Further Information:**

Contact Darrell Shreve at [dshreve@mmha.com](mailto:dshreve@mmha.com).

## Member News

### Member News

In this week's Member News, [http://www.mhha.com/index/Member\\_News](http://www.mhha.com/index/Member_News) read about Shirley Brekken receiving national award and Kristine Smyth named Director of Development at Catholic Eldercare. Send your news to Bill Floyd at [bfloyd@mhha.com](mailto:bfloyd@mhha.com).

## Association News

### Place Your Order Now for the New Housing-with-Services and Assisted Living Technical Guide, Sixth Edition

Housing-with-Services and Assisted Living providers looking for key resources to assist them in their daily work will want this newly updated manual at their fingertips. The sixth edition of MHHA's comprehensive ***Housing-with-Services and Assisted Living Technical Guide*** is now available for purchase online through the MHHA Store at <http://eseries.mhha.com/source/Orders/index.cfm> or by calling Alecia Crumpler at MHHA.

This updated technical guide features:

- A new section on the assisted living requirements;
- A new section on coordination between housing and service providers--a critical area for good customer service; and
- Changes to the reference section including a chart summarizing all the important disclosure requirements for housing-with-services, assisted living and dementia care providers.

The reimbursement information previously included in this manual is being entirely revised and expanded to incorporate all the new information that providers need to understand regarding Elderly Waiver Customized Living and Group Residential Housing. This will be issued in a separate publication later in the year.

The Technical Guide manual, item #HSG2075 is available at the member price of \$125.

#### For Further Information:

Contact Mary Youle at [myoule@mhha.com](mailto:myoule@mhha.com).

## Education Solutions At-A-Glance

Click for more information or to register. <http://tinyurl.com/2egar8>.

### NEW TRAINING FORMAT - INTRODUCING THE MHHA WEBINAR!

#### The New IRS Form 990: What Not-for-Profit Aging Services Providers NEED to Know

Tuesday, August 26, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

<http://tinyurl.com/5ek5xq>

#### Nurse Managers in Home Care Settings Certificate Program, Final two days: Sept. 9-10 (St. Paul)

<http://tinyurl.com/5mezjk>

#### MHHA Annual Meeting & Leadership Forum: Beyond Expectations, Sept. 16-19 (Brainerd)

<http://tinyurl.com/6haxje>

#### Marketing & Sales for Senior Living Communities Certificate Program, October 13, 14, 15 (St. Paul)

\*Sponsored by Welsh Construction and Genesis Architecture

#### Assisted Living Home Care Conference, Oct. 22 (St. Paul)

Co-Sponsored with the Minnesota HomeCare Association

#### Culture Change Coalition Program

October 24 (Blaine)

#### Financial Management for Home Care Providers, Fall date to be announced (Twin Cities)

Co-Sponsored with Minnesota HomeCare Association

#### 2009 Institute for Older Adult Services, Feb. 11-13, 2009 (Minneapolis)

### MHHA Education On Demand

Any time, any place! Download these Video Casts from the 2008 Institute.

Click to Order: <http://eseries.mhha.com/source/Orders/index.cfm>

Making Dreams Come True (session 120)

Culture Change: Do More Than Look At Me - Involve Me (session 105)

Motorized Assistive Devices: Balancing Individual Rights and Safety (session 133)

Creating Relationship-Centered Environments For Living (session 206)

Ethical Dilemmas in Refusal of Care: The Challenge and Solution (session 222)

## AAHSA News

### Have you Reviewed Your Disaster Plans Lately?

A new DVD resource on the subject of Sheltering In Place is now available. There is no charge to AAHSA-member facilities or organizations for the DVD. It was produced using federal/state grant funds. The DVD is applicable to all settings and can be used in any State. You may obtain one by e-mailing your request, with complete return mail address, to Ed Peloquin, Domestic Preparedness Coordinator at the NJ Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, at [epeloquin@njahsa.org](mailto:epeloquin@njahsa.org).

## **ALFA News**

### **ALFA Urges Providers to Participate in the Assisted Living Executive Reader Survey**

An independent research firm is conducting a reader survey of ALFA's flagship magazine, Assisted Living Executive. Printed surveys have been mailed to a representative sample of ALFA members who are urged to complete the survey and return it to the research firm in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Participants may e-mail any questions to Carrie Wood at [cwood@strattonpublishing.com](mailto:cwood@strattonpublishing.com).

ALFA member companies receive Assisted Living Executive subscriptions for staff as part of their membership. Free controlled subscriptions are also available to qualified senior living providers. Go to [www.alfa.org/subscribe](http://www.alfa.org/subscribe) for details.

Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance  
2550 University Avenue West, Suite 350S, St. Paul, MN 55114-1900  
Phone: 651-645-4545, Toll Free: 800-462-5368, Fax: 651-645-0002

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