

2014 Profile Data to Update NJ Elder Economic Security Index

NJ Foundation for Aging



New Jersey Foundation for Aging (NJFA)

Established in 1998 with the statewide mission to support and promote innovative programs and public policy that enable older adults to live in the community with independence and dignity.

Four Areas of Mission Related Work

Policy Research

[improve and expand...influence public policy]

Public Awareness: Aging Insights TV Program, Renaissance Magazine

[enable older adults by connecting them to services, etc...influence public policy]

Professional Development: Annual Conference and Forums

[improve...innovate service delivery & influence public policy]

Philanthropic Support

[improve & expand services that enable older adults to live in the community]

NJFA Policy Projects

Policy research and social action producing
9 in depth research and policy reports/forums

Mature Workers Forum

Caregiver Supports

Medical Transportation

Community Para-Transit

and Alternative Transportation

Safe Mobility at any Age and Older Drivers

Elder Index Reports, 2009, 2012, 2014

What Does the Elder Index Do?

- **Provides new information to illustrate the basic costs seniors face and how their financial security is affected when their life circumstances change.**
- **Offers educational tools for elders, family caregivers, baby boomers and younger workers to help them prepare fiscally for retirement.**
- **Provides a framework for analyzing the impact of local, state, and federal public policies and policy proposals in such areas as housing, retirement security, health, long-term care, and taxes.**
- **Offers a counseling tool for those working with elders in need of income supports and/or additional skill sets.**
- **Serves as a foundation for developing a state policy agenda and a platform for engaging in statewide advocacy.**

Components of the Elder Index

- ◎ Housing=rent or mortgage, property taxes, utilities, etc.
- ◎ Food= basic meal plan
- ◎ Transportation= using a private car
- ◎ Healthcare= *assumes good health*, Medicare premium, Medi-gap policy and out of pocket costs
- ◎ Miscellaneous= other costs

Findings of the EI Research

- ❑ **Social Security is the sole income for 30% of NJ Elders.**
- ❑ **The Average Social Security in NJ is \$15,191 for a woman; \$19,393 for a man.**
- ❑ **Average expenses for an single elder renter =\$29,436.**
- ❑ **Average expenses for a elder renter couple =\$40,956**
- ❑ **Forty-three percent of all single elders and elder couples in NJ cannot cover their basic expenses.**

More Findings

- # Persons in single and elder couple households: 586,975
- # Persons with incomes below the Elder Index: 255,476

Of those with incomes below EI:

- 25% still have a Mortgage
- 48% are owners Without a Mortgage
- 27% are Renters=> 68,978 persons
- 63% are Women
- 37% are Men
- 22 % are Minority Elders
- 40% are between Ages 65 and 74
- 60% are over Age 75
- 23% are over Age 85

Who is on the edge of poverty in NJ and where are they living?

NEW JERSEY | ADULTS 65 YEARS & OVER LIVING BELOW ELDER INDEX

Number of all persons over age 65 in NJ	Includes Single & 2-Person Elder Households	Above & Below Elder Index	Below Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Above FPL and Below Elder Index	Total Below Elder Index
	1.3 Million	Number	586,975	55,135	200,341
	Percent	100%	9.4%	34.1%	43.5%

Single Elders in NJ 2014

\$39,300, Index for Homeowner with a Mortgage

\$29,436, Index for Renters

\$26,652, Index for Homeowner without a Mortgage

\$11,670
Federal
Poverty
Level

\$15,191

Average Social
Security, Women

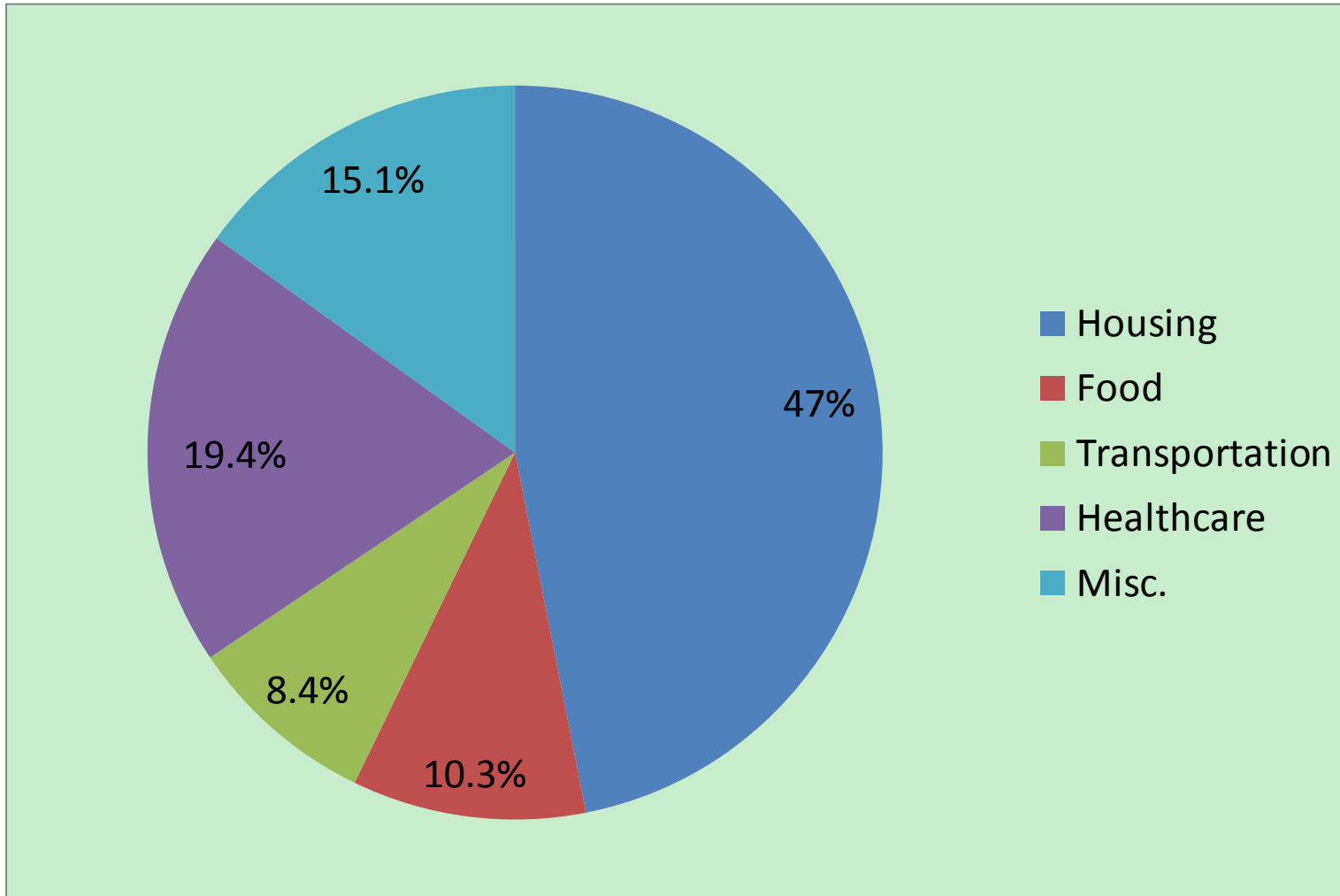
\$19,393

Average Social
Security, Men

NJ STATEWIDE ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY STANDARD INDEX, 2014 Report

	Elder Person (age 65+)			Elder Couple (one age 65+)		
Monthly and Yearly Expenses	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage
Housing	\$918	\$1,150	\$1,972	\$918	\$1,150	\$1,972
Food	\$252	\$252	\$252	\$463	\$463	\$463
Transportation	\$205	\$205	\$205	\$318	\$318	\$318
Health Care (Good Health)	\$476	\$476	\$476	\$952	\$952	\$952
Miscellaneous @ 20%	\$370	\$370	\$370	\$530	\$530	\$530
Index Per Month	\$2,221	\$2,453	\$3,275	\$3,181	\$3,413	\$4,235
Index Per Year	\$26,652	\$29,436	\$39,300	\$38,172	\$40,956	\$50,820

Proportion of Monthly Expenses For a Single Elder Renter



Statewide 2014 costs compared to 2009

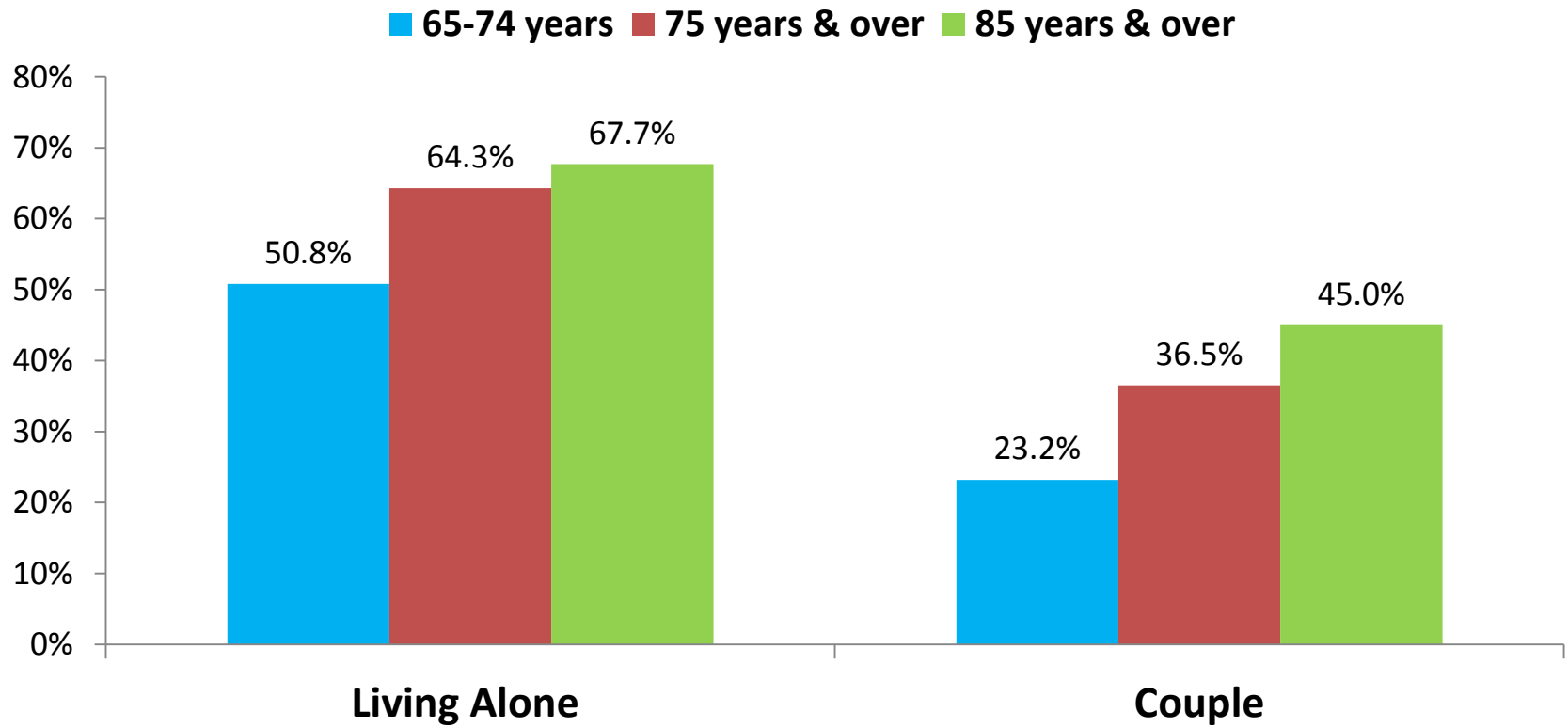
2009 NJ Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index Per Year					
Elder Person			Elder Couple		
Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage
\$23,452	\$25,941	\$33,570	\$34,324	\$36,813	\$44,442

2014 NJ Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index Per Year					
Elder Person			Elder Couple		
Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, one bedroom	Owner w/ mortgage
\$26,652	\$29,436	\$39,300	\$38,172	\$40,956	\$50,820

Percentage of Increase from 2009 to 2014					
13.6%	13.5%	17.1%	11.2%	11.3%	14.35%

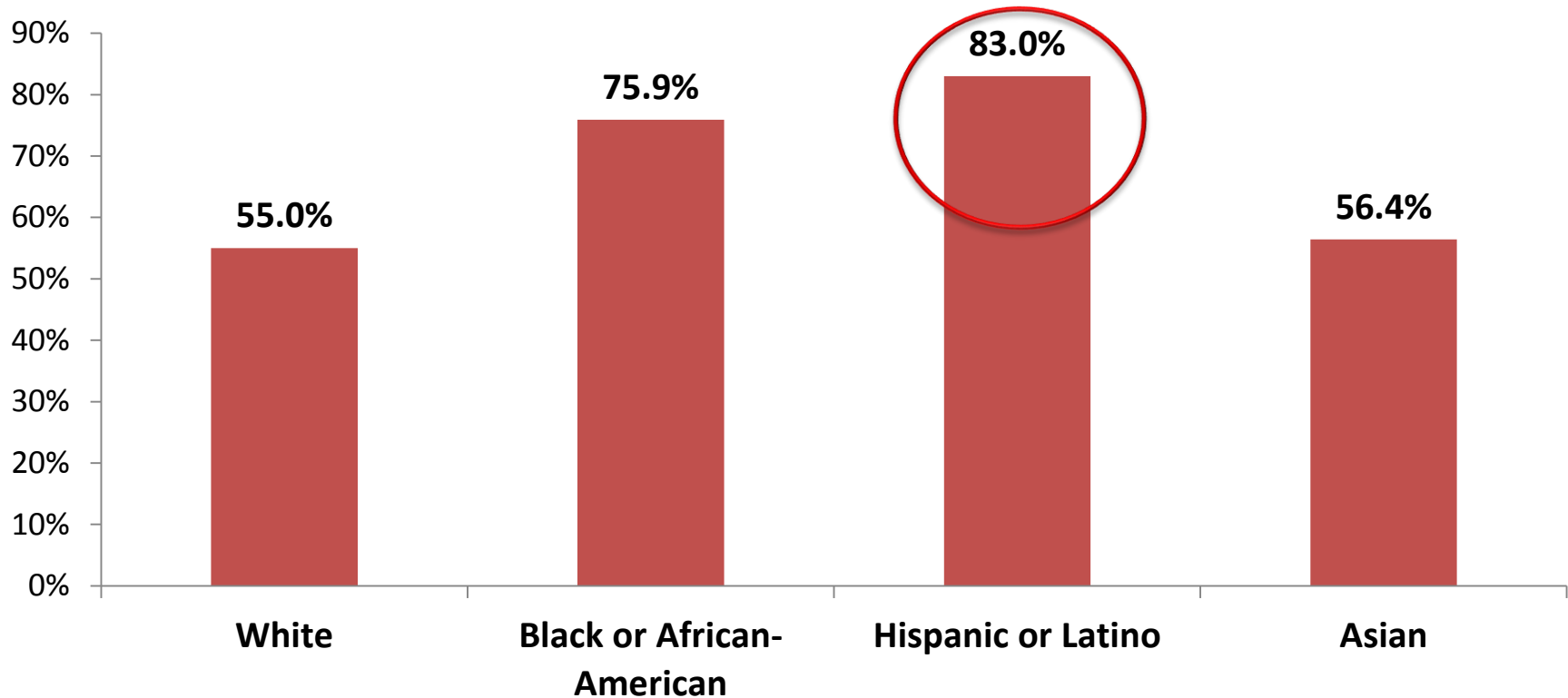
Elders below the Index by Age: (Singles & Couples)

***Percent of elders experiencing income shortages increases with age
The oldest among the elderly - 85 years & above – are most vulnerable***



Single Elders Below the Index by Race & Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino Elders Living Alone have the highest income inadequacy rate



Looking at the needs of Single Elder Woman Renter living on average annual Social Security of \$15,191*

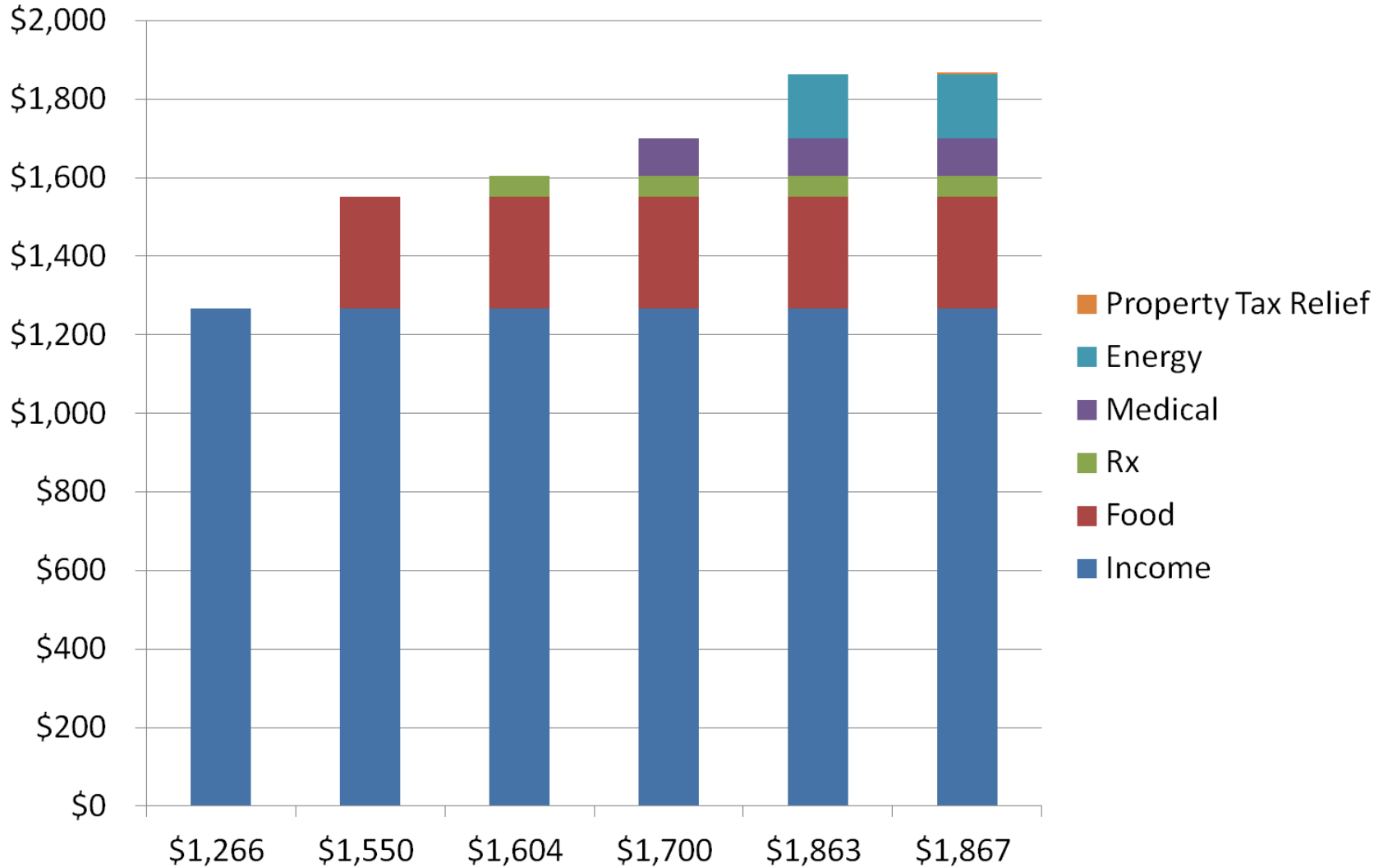
Elder woman receives the state average SS of \$1266/mo and would be at 52% economic security. If she applies & receives the following it would bring her closer to **79% economic security**. * \$15,191 is the average benefit. **Many elders receive less.**

- ***Food Assistance: SNAP/MoW/Nutri.sites/Farmer Mrt. Coupon***
- ***Rx Assistance: PAAD***
- ***Medical Assistance: Medicare Savings Prog. (SLMB/QMB)***
- ***Energy Assistance: HEA, Universal Service Fund, Lifeline***
- ***Property Tax Assistance: Property Tax Credit***

The only item that further closes the gap is affordable housing.

The Impact of Public Supports on Economic Security of a Single Elder Renter Living on Social Security

Monthly Elder Economic Security Index \$2,436 needed to cover basic costs



Recommendations developed with Stakeholders for 2012 Report

- **Increase access to affordable housing**
- Support the provision of property tax & tenant rebate supports
- Increase to the state supplement for SSI
- Protect and widen access to community based long-term care and aging in place services
- Promote better access to food and nutritional support programs
- Utilize the NJ Elder Index data
 - As an outreach, planning and case management tool to gauge progress for vulnerable seniors to obtain towards economic security
 - As metrics to determine the impact of public benefit programs

Housing recommendations in depth

1. Advocate for increased access to affordable housing

A. Strategies must include **expansion of the number of Section 8 vouchers** available in New Jersey to seniors and low income families.

B. **Smart** planning that considers affordable housing options for seniors needs to also consider the housing priority to have health care worker housing near by.

C. **Simplify the application process at the local level. Currently, there is a stalled maze for applying for senior housing.** The waiting lists are long and mostly closed. There is duplication within communities' lists since each site manages independently of the other sites. It is important to provide a coordinated simplified local application process that assures both access and accuracy.

D. **Create an awareness and incentives** regarding other community options: shared housing, etc.

E. **Link seniors to credit/debt and foreclosure prevention programs** and housing counseling programs.

Housing recommendations continued

2. Support the provision of property tax and rebate supports

A. Support legislation to maintain the Property Tax Reimbursement programs like the Senior Freeze.

B. Maintain Tenant Rebates for seniors and low income families.

While defending the benefit for the senior population is a priority, we recognize that there are intergenerational households, as well as those older workers and low income families who are at risk of “aging into poverty” that may be affected by further cuts and restrictions to the program.

It is important not to let people age into poverty.

The full NJ 2012 Report is available online

www.njfoundationforaging.org

2014 data details will be posted soon



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