



Wider Opportunities for Women

Elder Economic Security Initiative™ Program

What Our State Partners are Saying

“This new data provides an accurate tool with which legislators can evaluate existing and future policy decisions, direct service providers can assess their communities’ unique needs and secure necessary funding, advocates can better express their priorities, and individuals can plan for retirement... We urge the US Congress to officially adopt the Index to help ensure that all older Californians can live with dignity and economic well-being.”

- **Roger A. Clay, President, Insight Center for Community Economic Development**

“We are excited to be part of the national Elder Economic Security Initiative for many reasons, but especially because it complements our work with the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard and projects the continuum of economic needs of all Pennsylvanians - from grandparents to grandchildren. At a time when the federal poverty level no longer accurately represents poverty in the United States, it is critically important that Pennsylvanians can assess their ability to be economically self-sufficient and that policy makers can develop viable paths to economic security.”

- **Carol Goertzel, CEO/President, PathWaysPA (Pennsylvania)**

“We’re fired up in Wisconsin. With the steady support of WOW, learning from the other states’ experiences and our own state-specific data, we are confident that we will initiate and succeed in focusing the policy debate on improving financial security for Wisconsin elders.”

- **Betsy Abramson, Wisconsin EESI Coordinator, Wisconsin Women’s Network**

“Finally we have a geographically specific, circumstances based, data-driven, objective measure of how much it costs for elders to make ends meet in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This is a great step forward in determining the policy and programmatic changes necessary to improve the well-being of low and moderate income elders in the Commonwealth who are financially strapped and those at risk of catastrophic expenses if they encounter a change in life circumstances. It gives us a basis for what we need to know to administer, deliver and change elder programs and services in order to ensure livable conditions for our elders, their families and all future residents who have the good fortune to grow older in Massachusetts.”

- **Ann Hartstein, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, Inc.**

“Economic insecurity among America’s older people is a profound moral problem. When elders cannot pay their bills or wonder what food will be in the cupboard at the end of the month, they face a fundamental threat to basic human dignity. Self-respect is threatened; the ability to make autonomous choices almost disappears; and caring relationships with family and friends becomes entangled with concerns about paying the bills. A good society is a caring society; it does not let people suffer needlessly. We owe that care and the alleviation of suffering to our oldest members.”

- **Martha Holstein, Long Term Care Advisor, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (Illinois)**

For more information on the Initiative, please contact Ramsey Alwin, Director of the National Elder Economic Security Initiative at WOW, by phone 202.464.1596 x107 or email at ralwin@wowonline.org.

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) leads two national networks promoting economic security within the United States: the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS) focusing on the needs of low-income working families and the Elder Economic Security Initiative™ program, addressing what income seniors require to age in place with dignity. WOW works in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and at the federal level to promote programs and policies that accurately measure the income and assistance needs of families and elders nationwide. For more information, please visit www.wowonline.org.