

HELP FILL THE GAP FOR OUR SENIORS

Did you know?

- California leads the nation with the most elders living below the Federal Poverty Line at 300,000?
- The Federal Poverty Line is the basis for aid eligibility for seniors?
- The Federal Poverty Line, established in 1963 uses the same measure in low cost-of-living states such as Arkansas as California?
- 864,000 California elders do not have enough income to cover their most basic needs (e.g. housing, healthcare, food, transportation)

What does this mean for our seniors each month?

Elder Person in Calaveras County		Elder Couple in Calaveras County	
Renter	Own Home (0 mortgage)	Renters	Own Home (0 mortgage)
Elder Index - \$1,641.00	Elder Index - \$1,579.00	Elder Index - \$2,475.00	Elder Index - \$2,413.00
F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00
Shortfall - \$ 791.00	Shortfall - \$ 788.00	Shortfall - \$1,335.00	Shortfall - \$1,273.00

Elder Person in Stanislaus County		Elder Couple in Stanislaus County	
Renter	Own Home (0 mortgage)	Renters	Own Home (0 mortgage)
Elder Index - \$1,581.00	Elder Index - \$1,319.00	Elder Index - \$2,300.00	Elder Index - \$2,039.00
F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00
Shortfall - \$ 731.00	Shortfall - \$ 469.00	Shortfall - \$1,160.00	Shortfall - \$ 899.00

Elder Person in San Joaquin County		Elder Couple in San Joaquin County	
Renter	Own Home (0 mortgage)	Renters	Own Home (0 mortgage)
Elder Index - \$1,659.00	Elder Index - \$1,336.00	Elder Index - \$2,389.00	Elder Index - \$2,066.00
F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00
Shortfall - \$ 809.00	Shortfall - \$ 486.00	Shortfall - \$1,249.00	Shortfall - \$ 926.00

Elder Person in Tuolumne County		Elder Couple in Tuolumne County	
Renter	Own Home (0 mortgage)	Renters	Own Home (0 mortgage)
Elder Index - \$1,670.00	Elder Index - \$1,579.00	Elder Index - \$2,504.00	Elder Index - \$2,413.00
F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$ 850.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00	F.P.L. - \$1,140.00
Shortfall - \$ 820.00	Shortfall - \$ 729.00	Shortfall - \$1,064.00	Shortfall - \$1,273.00

"The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; production to meet social needs over production for military purposes." *Pope John Paul II, Address on Christian Unity in a Technological Age (Toronto, Canada, 1984).*

AB 324 would use the Elder Economic Security Index to provide a better measure of poverty to plan for the needs of California's growing, (expected to double by 2030) aging population. The Elder Economic Security Index is a tool that accurately measures the cost of meeting basic needs for retired, older adults in each county. This would then allow them to receive the existing help that they so desperately need.

Contact your state legislator in support of AB 324.

Sample Letter

I am writing in support of AB 324 (Beall Liu), the Elder Economic Dignity Act of 2009 which would institute the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) to assess and plan for the economic needs of California's burgeoning aging population. Using publicly available state and federal data sources, the Elder Index is a new tool that accurately measure true cost of meeting basic needs of retired, older adults in each county of California.

AB 324 would require the Elder Index to be used in 1) planning documents by Area Agency on Aging & California Department o Aging; 2) determining eligibility for new California State needs-based program; and 3) identifying senior in economic need (I.e. as a case management tool in Linkages program). In addition, AB 324 would require annual updating the Elder Index and calculating number of seniors living below using the Elder Index existing formula. We ask you to do everything possible to get AB 324 signed into law.