

CONNECTICUT ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE E-News, April 1, 2009

Thanks to all who showed support as we launched the Elder Economic Security Initiative in March. We are honored to have you as partners. There is more work to be done, and we will communicate with you periodically to keep you updated. Here is some recent news.

PCSW is partnering with the Commission on Aging as well as local community agencies and providers to offer presentations on elder economic security. Presentations can vary in length and format, depending on your organization's interest and availability. Presentations include:

- State and local region specific data on the cost of living for those over 65 years of age;
- The costs of long term care in various regions;
- General information about differences in retirement income by gender, race and ethnicity;
- Policy recommendations and developments to address elder economics; and
- State and federal policy developments to improve elder economic security.

If you would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Emma Mullen at 860-240-5291 or emma.mullen@cga.ct.gov

State Legislative News

There is much state legislation that relates to older adults, long term care, elderly services, etc. We are highlighting just a few brought to our attention by state partners.

- **SB 1144 AN ACT CONCERNING FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES AND TELECOMMUTING OPTIONS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.** Adopting and aggressively promoting flexible work schedules, phased-in retirement and telecommuting options for state employees could save millions of dollars a year, retain experienced staff and ultimately help solve Connecticut's looming workforce shortage, according to legislation proposed by the General Assembly's Connecticut Commission on Aging. Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr said that as Connecticut's largest employer with more than 55,000 employees, the state could "lead by example" by adopting flexible worker-friendly initiatives that could save more than \$22 million annually. Read more at:
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/PDFs/News%20Releases/WorkplaceFlexibilitynewsrelease.pdf>
and
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/TOB/s/pdf/2009SB-01144-R00-SB.pdf>
- **SB 1 An Act Concerning Economic Security.** The Comptroller would offer "state assisted savings" retirement plan options to small businesses, non-profits and self-employed AARP testimony: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/APPdata/Tmy/2009SB-00001-R000320-Thomas,%20David-AARP-TMY.PDF>

Federal Update

Several provisions of the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** will affect older adults and provide opportunities for improving elderly services. WOW has generously shared this outline which includes healthcare, nutrition, employment and other provisions. <http://www.wowonline.org/ourprograms/eesi/documents/SelectedARRAProvisionsAffectingOlderIndividuals.pdf>

Resources

Elder Economic Security Standard Index and Policy Brief Released in Connecticut.

Connecticut became the seventh state to officially launch the Elder Economic Security Initiative (EESI). The PCSW leads the Connecticut initiative, partnering with the Connecticut Commission on Aging, and Wider Opportunities for Women, who leads the national initiative. The Index provides a realistic measure of what it takes older adults in Connecticut to live, based on their geographic location. The Index takes into account housing, *healthcare (Medicare premiums, supplements, out of pocket expenses, etc)*, food, transportation and miscellaneous. Long term care costs are added on for individuals with different health statuses. For more information, <http://www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw/> and click on the Elder Economic Security Initiative tab. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/EESI.asp>

National Elder Economic Security Initiative. Wider Opportunities for Women.

<http://www.wowonline.org/ourprograms/eesi/> and blog spot with fabulous resources on women and retirement. <http://wow-eesi.blogspot.com/>

Redefining Retirement Years: Workplace Flexibility Practices & State Policies. Two reports from the Commission on Aging highlight not only workplace practices and policies but a comprehensive inventory of related state laws and policies.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/PDFs/Reports/workplace%20flexibility%20table%201.15.09.pdf>

DSS Programs for Elders.

<http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2345&Q=304924&dssNav=|>

DSS Unit on Aging. <http://www.ct.gov/agingservices/site/default.asp>

Connecticut's Long Term Care website. Most people will need assistance with activities of daily living at some point in their lives, whether due to aging, injury, illness or disability. Knowing what kind of help is needed and available and how to obtain it is not an easy task. Whether you need help now or are exploring future options for yourself or a loved one, this web site can assist you.

<http://www.ct.gov/longtermcare/site/default.asp>

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