



Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

## CONNECTICUT ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE E-News, May 2009

**In this issue:** May is Older Americans Month-blog along with Wider Opportunities for Women to celebrate. For more information visit <http://www.wow-eesi.blogspot.com/> to hear what economic security for older adults means to Connecticut and other states. Here is some recent news, also see news from WOW below.

### **Promoting Economic Security for Women on a National, State, and Community**

**Level.** Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:00 pm. Join Wider Opportunities for Women, Lisa Sementilli from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, Paul Downey CEO of Senior Community Centers in San Diego California, and Diane Walder a Wisconsin caregiver and advocate. To reserve your spot now, <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/590074443>

### **EESI Road Show: Can We Stop in Your Town?**

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;
- 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 Lisa P. Sementilli at 860-240-8447 or [Lisa.Sementilli@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Lisa.Sementilli@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 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>
- **HB 5057 An Act Concerning a Single Point of Entry for Long-Term Care.** This bill would require the Department of Social Services to establish a statewide single-point-of-entry for

information, referral, and screening for individuals seeking long-term care. It also requires related changes to the state's long-term care website. The bill would ensure that all of the designated single-point-of-entry agencies followed the same requirements and develop a single, simplified application for related state programs.

## **Federal Update**

### **Congressional Budget Resolutions include savings incentives**

Recent Congressional Budget Resolutions included opportunities to fund savings incentive legislation. The Senate passed a Budget Resolution (CR 13) that included "financial literacy, *retirement planning* and savings incentives, including, individual development accounts and child savings accounts."

Section 242 of the legislation allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the resolution to allocate resources for asset-building uses. The amendment was championed by Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME). See page 78 of the bill at [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:sc13es.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:sc13es.txt.pdf) to read the language.

The House Budget Resolution was not as specific but did establish a reserve account for tax proposals (Section 315 of HCR 85) which could be used to support saving incentives. See page 57. *Source: CFED.*

**Connecticut Commission on Aging Presents: Informational Forum on what the Federal Stimulus package means for Connecticut's Older Adults.** Join the Commission on Aging on Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the Legislative Office Building room 2A for information on how the ARRA will affect Connecticut's aging population. For a flyer see <http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/PDFs/may%2020%20briefing%20flyer.pdf>

## **CT EESI in the NEWS**

After our successful launch in early March, EESI has gotten several media hits! Check out these stories from newspapers across the state!

<http://www.thehour.com/story/466212>

<http://www.thehour.com/printstory/466868/>

[http://blogs.courant.com/susan\\_campbell/2009/03/old-age-is-not-for-sissies-in.html](http://blogs.courant.com/susan_campbell/2009/03/old-age-is-not-for-sissies-in.html)

<http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/03/10/business/c1-elderly10.txt>

<http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/03/18/news/a3-scrips.txt>

## **A Note from the Wider Opportunities For Women**

### **Greetings from Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)**

Exciting news from one of WOW's state partners! New Jersey officially launched the Elder Economic Security Initiative™ this week, making it the eighth state to release the Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index county-by-county data. Our lead state organization, [the New Jersey Foundation for Aging](#), hosted multiple launch events throughout the state. One success of the launch included a headline feature on New Jersey News (NJN)! Check it out [HERE](#).

WOW's been busy planning activities to celebrate Older American's Month. On May 1<sup>st</sup> WOW sponsored its first ever blog event, "Blog About It: Elder Economic Security" to kick off the commemorative month. The day was a great success with over 20 co-sponsors participating by either authoring a blog post or comment. WOW was delighted to log over 1,000 hits to [the National Elder Economic Security Initiative blog](#) over the course of the big day!

As we continue to celebrate elders during the month of May, WOW will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 (EST) titled, "Promoting Economic Security for Older Women: National, State, and Community Perspectives". The webinar will feature a fantastic line-up of panelists from the [Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women](#), [Senior Community Centers](#) of San Diego, California and a family caregiver and advocate from Madison, Wisconsin. Registration information coming your way very soon!

Finally, as of this month, WOW is an official member of the [Leadership Council of Aging Organizations](#) (LCAO), a coalition of national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population. LCAO is committed to representing older adults' interests in the policymaking arena. We look forward to accomplishing much with our new coalition! – *Elder Economic Security Initiative Team*

## Resources

**Profile of a Connecticut Older Adult.** Check out <http://www.wowonline.org/ourprograms/eesi/LibbyJohnson.asp> to read the incredible journey of Connecticut resident Libby Johnson, and how programs have made it a possibility for Libby to remain in the house her husband built throughout her retirement.

**Looking For a Programs That Help Older Adults Stay at Home in CT?** Take a look at Public Initiatives That Help Elders and Individuals with Disabilities Stay at Home, for an excellent, very detailed resource directory about programs that can help. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa/PDFs/Reports/Public%20Initiatives%20That%20Help%20Elders%20and%20those%20with%20Disabilities%20to%20Remain%20at%20Home%202009%20update%201-23-09.pdf>

**The Elders Ready for Action Project (E.R.A.)** is an emergency preparedness outreach, engagement, and education project for Hartford, Windsor or Bloomfield residents age 60 or over. E.R.A. services include emergency preparedness outreach, a series of health education training workshops, continuing education and recruitment, a project advisory committee, and agency referrals. For more information contact Sarah Farkas, project coordinator at [sfarkas@centralctahec.org](mailto:sfarkas@centralctahec.org), or visit <http://www.centralctahec.org/emergency.html> For upcoming workshops visit [http://www.centralctahec.org/ERA\\_workshops.html](http://www.centralctahec.org/ERA_workshops.html) The E.R.A. is a project of the Central Area Health Education Center, Inc.

**Elder Economic Security Standard Index and Policy Brief for Connecticut.** The Index provides a realistic measure of what it takes older adults in Connecticut to live, based on their geographic location. 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/>

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