



PCSW was selected to be the lead state organization for Connecticut, along with our partner the Commission on Aging. We will work in collaboration with the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN) on this multi-year Initiative.

### The Index

A key tool is the Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (“the Index”). The Index has been developed in conjunction with the Gerontology

Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston and WOW, and is calibrated to household size, geographic area, and life circumstances. It measures how much income is needed for an elder in a given life situation and a given geographic location to adequately meet their basic needs – without public or private assistance. The Index includes living expenses for retired seniors age 65 and older in the community – not in institutions, nor in intergenerational households. (Medicare and supplemental health insurance coverage is included.)

The Elder Economic Security Standard Index, US Average, 2006 Monthly Expenses for Selected Household Types				
Monthly Expenses/ Monthly and Yearly Totals	Single Elder		Elder Couple	
	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, One Bedroom	Owner w/o Mortgage	Renter, One Bedroom
Housing	\$ 349	\$ 655	\$ 349	\$ 655
Food	\$ 206	\$ 206	\$ 378	\$ 378
Transportation (Private Auto)	\$ 276	\$ 276	\$ 337	\$ 337
Health Care	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 440	\$ 440
Miscellaneous @ 20%	\$ 210	\$ 271	\$ 301	\$ 362
<b>Index Per Month</b>	<b>\$ 1,261</b>	<b>\$ 1,628</b>	<b>\$ 1,805</b>	<b>\$ 2,172</b>
<b>Index Per Year</b>	<b>15,134</b>	<b>19,541</b>	<b>21,658</b>	<b>26,064</b>

### Objectives of the Connecticut Initiative will be to:

- Host discussions reframing issues of aging and economic security
- Develop good policy information and research to support policy solutions
- Conduct consumer education on the costs of living and retiring in Connecticut as an elderly resident; and
- Coordinate and move an advocacy strategy in conjunction with partners.

### Policy options for the Connecticut Initiative include:

- Income supports (energy, food assistance, e.g.)
- State and federal financing of health care for the elderly and disabled
- Housing policy including property tax reform; and
- Building and protecting assets.

### Outcomes

- A better educated community of younger and mid-life women
- Improved awareness and expectations for retirement
- Increased health care access
- More choices in home and community-based services; and
- Improved income supports.

For more information, contact Lisa P. Sementilli at 860-240-8447 or via e-mail at [lisa.sementilli@cga.ct.gov](mailto:lisa.sementilli@cga.ct.gov).

July 2008