



**Wider
Opportunities
for Women**

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WOW Announces Economic Security Innovations Awardees

Groups Apply Innovative Approaches to Building Economic Security Across the Lifespan

Washington, DC—Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) is pleased to announce the awardees of its first-ever Economic Security Innovations Award as part of WOW's Building Bridges to Economic Security Campaign.

Through the award, WOW will provide organizations with support to enable awardees to collaborate with diverse partners in their home communities. The goal of this award is to establish working relationships among groups that may not traditionally work together in order to advance a shared agenda for building economic security over the lifespan.

WOW received nearly 90 applications from 39 states and the District of Columbia for a limited number of awards. The following recipients were selected, based on their past organizational successes, strategies for coalition expansion, creativity, unique products and inclusion of intergenerational issues and partnerships:

- **Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund** (Goodyear, Arizona) is a non-profit organization that focuses on growing senior grassroots involvement in public policy issues that affect retirees. Their proposed "Arizona Grandfamily Economic Security Campaign" will include the convening of a Grandparents Caring for Children taskforce. The taskforce will send a letter to the Governor and legislature on the negative effects of budget cuts on multigenerational families, as well as educational factsheets and brochures that will be disseminated to a wide variety of groups, including low-income and non-English speaking communities.
- **California Health and Human Services Network** (Los Angeles, California) is a statewide coalition that works to develop an overarching framework and plan focusing on the crosscutting health and human service issues that affect California's women, children and seniors. The network includes the Western Center on Law and Poverty and the California Immigrant Policy Center. The coalition will use the award to develop and disseminate materials to engage community-based organizations and garner legislative advocacy and participation.
- **Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law** (Chicago, Illinois) works on asset building over the lifecycle as part of a national law and policy center that provides leadership in identifying, developing and supporting innovative and collaborative approaches to achieve social and economic justice for low-income people. Their proposal focuses on building a coalition that will work to support the Illinois Automatic IRA Act of 2011 in order to reintroduce it next year.
- **Montana Women Vote** (Missoula, Montana) is a coalition of non-profit organizations working statewide to educate and mobilize low-income women and their allies to participate in the democratic process as informed voters, policy advocates and community leaders. A coalition in its own right, the group will be actively engaging new groups like AARP as well as senior centers and other community groups working closely with older women with tools that illustrate how federal budget cuts affect Montana women.

- **Community of Vermont Elders** (Montpelier, Vermont) has been working for thirty years with and for elder Vermonters and the organizations that serve them to identify, interpret and respond to critical issues that impact seniors' dignity, security and well-being. Community of Vermont Elders (COVE) will be working with the Vermont Kinship Advocacy Network (K.A.N.) and its affiliated local Kinship Information Navigation chapters (K.I.N.s), along with the Probate Court judges and staff in Vermont's 14 counties, to increase the number of kinship caregivers that access the financial supports and services necessary both to provide a home for grandchildren, nieces or nephews and to maintain family economic and emotional security.

Awardees will be formally recognized as partners in WOW's existing network of more than 3,000 state- and locally-based non-profit organizations, state administrators, labor representatives, policy makers and funders through its Family Economic Security Program, Elder Economic Security Initiative™ and Building Bridges to Economic Security Campaign. For more information on the campaign and the Economic Security Innovations Awards, please visit www.wowonline.org/buildingbridges.

Wider Opportunities for Women

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) works nationally and in its home community of Washington, DC to achieve economic independence and equality of opportunity for women and their families at all stages of life. For over 45 years, WOW has been a leader in the areas of non-traditional employment, job training and education, welfare to work and workforce development policy. Since 1995, WOW has been devoted to the self-sufficiency of women and their families through the national Family Economic Security (FES) Project. Through FES, WOW has reframed the national debate on social policies and programs from one that focuses on poverty to one that focuses on what it takes families to make ends meet. Building on FES, WOW has expanded to meet its intergenerational mission of economic independence for women at all stages of life with the Elder Economic Security Initiative. For more information about WOW's programs please visit www.wowonline.org or call WOW at 202-464-1596.

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