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for Women**



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.



University of
Massachusetts
Boston

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR:

Monday, March 28, 2011 at 12 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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NEW REPORT TO DEFINE ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WASHINGTON SENIORS

Aging Advocates to Speak Out Against State and Federal Cuts

OLYMPIA, WA—With state and federal budget cuts threatening key services for the state's elder residents, a new economic measure, to be released on Monday will detail how much income Washington seniors in all 39 counties need to cover their basic expenses. On average, the Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (Elder Index) – developed by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Boston – estimates Washington's older renters need \$21, 492 a year to live independently. A brief also to be released Monday highlights the range of public programs Washington state seniors rely on, some of which are facing significant cuts in proposed state and federal budgets. Under a bill passed by the US House that would cut discretionary funding, H.R. 1, Washington State could lose more than \$30 million in funding for affordable housing, and access to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps some seniors pay their heating bills, could be curtailed. At the state level, critical Medicaid health services, home care options and local services provided through the state Senior Citizens Services Act are threatened. Starting March 28, the report will be available online at www.wowonline.org.

Senior citizen advocates, including many members of the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging, will convene on Monday March 28 at Noon to review the new measure and call on state legislators to discuss the importance of programs that seniors rely on through Medicaid and the state Senior Citizens Services Act.

WHAT: Release of New Report on Economic Security for Washington Elders

WHEN: Monday, March 28, 2011 at 12 p.m.

WHO: Stacy Sanders, Director, Elder Economic Security Initiative at Wider Opportunities for Women, Washington, DC
Roy Walker, Chair, Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Alison Gottlieb, Senior Research Associate, Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston
Aging Advocacy Groups

WHERE: John L. O'Brien Building, Capitol Campus
House Rules Room B16
Olympia, WA

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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 nontraditional 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) Program. 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.

Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A)

The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) serves as the collective voice for the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in Washington and works with the local AAAs to create communities that support people as they age. The organization seeks to enhance the effectiveness of each AAA through a strong agenda of information, debate, advocacy and education. Since the 1970's, Washington's publicly sponsored Area Agencies on Aging have planned, coordinated, funded, provided and advocated for services for adults 60 years of age and older and, for over twenty years, have provided services and supports for adults with disabilities. The AAA emphasis has always been on helping people remain in their own homes and communities.

The Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston

The Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston addresses social and economic issues associated with population aging. The Institute conducts applied research, analyzes policy issues, and engages in public education. It also encourages the participation of older people in aging services and policy development. In its work with local, state, national and international organizations, the Institute has five priorities: 1) productive aging, that is, opportunities for older people to play useful social roles; 2) health care for the elderly; 3) long-term care for the elderly; 4) economic security for older adults; 5) social and demographic research on aging. For more information about The Gerontology Institute visit www.geront.umb.edu.