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Study Finds Some Of Wisconsin's Senior Citizens Can't Cover Basic Expenses

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Many of Wisconsin's senior citizens don't earn enough money to meet their basic living expenses.

That's according to a new study from Wider Opportunities for Women.

The report found that a single person over the age of 65 -- and without a mortgage -- needs at least \$18,158 a year to meet their basic needs. A couple needs nearly \$28,000. Those living expenses are significantly more than the federal poverty line or what seniors take in on Social Security.

The average income of women older than 65 is just \$15,395.

The average income for male seniors in Wisconsin is \$18,223.

"For many seniors, there's a financial gap between their income and their basic needs such as transportation, housing, food and health care," said Sharyn Wisniewski of the Wisconsin Women's Network.

Seniors in Milwaukee County have the highest living expenses in the state. The study's intent was to provide lawmakers with information on how to help support Wisconsin seniors.

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