

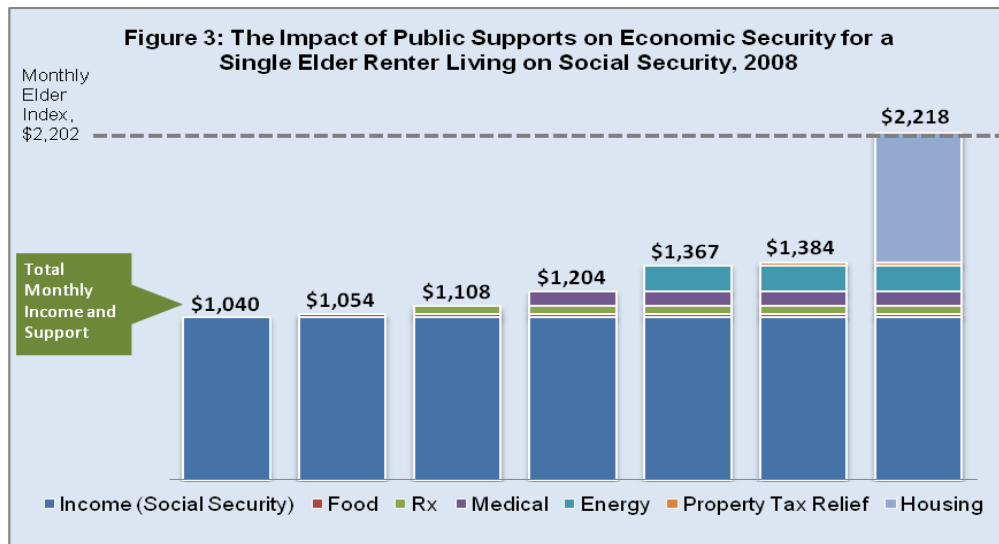


Public Supports Can Close the Gaps

Once gaps between income and economic security have been measured, the questions arise: Can the gaps be bridged? Are there public support programs that provide economic security? If an elder receives all public supports for which they are eligible, they can begin to close the gap.

New Jersey has made great strides to rebalance the services towards the goal of allowing more elders to receive home and community-based care. The Policy Brief includes policy recommendations to further this goal to help elders age successfully. Tables 3, 4, and 5 in the Policy Brief illustrate how support programs can help elders close the gap. To obtain the full Brief go to www.njfoundationforaging.org

Below you will see the impact of a variety of public supports that help to close the gap between monthly income and the monthly index expenses.



THE FACTS TELL US

- New Jersey elders cannot meet their basic living expenses whether they live at the Federal Poverty Level or the level of the average social security benefit. This is true of elders statewide, whether they rent or own a home.
- Social Security is the *only* source of income for one out of four older adults in New Jersey, the majority of whom are women. About 9% of New Jersey’s older adults live at or below the federal poverty level.
- Housing costs put a heavy burden on some elder households, representing as much as half of their total expenses.
- Even elders who are currently making ends meet face an uncertain future if their life circumstances change, such as loss of a spouse/partner or a decline in health status. It is important to realize that often times “it is not your fault” and there are services, advocates and resources in the community.

This project represents a commitment by many stakeholders to plan effectively for today’s seniors and the seniors of tomorrow to live and age well in NJ. To learn more visit www.njfoundationforaging.org/issues.html