



June 13, 2008

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**State and National Organizations Release County-by-County Data
Showing How Much Elders Need to Make Ends Meet
Elder Economic Security Initiative Offers a Realistic Measure of What it Takes to Age with
Dignity in Illinois**

WHAT:

The Health and Medicine Policy Research Group, in partnership with Wider Opportunities for Women and the Chicago Foundation for Women, is hosting a press conference to launch the Illinois Elder Economic Security Initiative™ Program (the Initiative), a multi-year advocacy project to promote the economic well-being of elders. Underpinning the Initiative is the Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (the Index), a realistic, geographically based measure of the income older Americans need to age with dignity.

WHEN:

Monday, June 23, 2008 at 10:30 am. To RSVP for the event, contact Joan Grangenois-Thomas at 212-627-2404 or email Joan at joan@makewavesnotnoise.com.

WHERE:

Chicago Foundation for Women, 1 East Wacker Drive, 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601

WHO:

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, U.S. House of Representatives

Claudia Fegan, MD, Assoc. Chief Medical Officer, Woodlawn Health Center

Anna Rappaport, F.S.A., M.A.A.A., Senior Fellow on Pensions & Retirement by The Conference Board, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and CEO of Anna Rappaport Consulting

Joan Kuriansky, JD, Executive Director, Wider Opportunities for Women

Laura Henze Russell, Director, Elder Economic Security Project, Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Moderated by: **Martha Holstein, Ph.D.** EESI-IL State Coordinator and Co-Director, Center for Long-Term Care Reform, Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

WHY:

The threat of recession combined with inflation is especially bad news for older Americans, many of whom live on fixed incomes. Many are already finding it hard to make ends meet. It will be getting harder. Their average living costs diverge widely from traditional measures of income sufficiency. The Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index, a realistic measure of what it takes for elders to make ends meet so that poverty does not threaten self-respect, provides the empirical foundation for policies and programs designed to narrow this gap between the cost of basic needs and available income.

The Health and Medicine Policy Research Group has a twenty-seven year history of evaluating local health policy as an independent, voluntary policy center with a mission centering on the health of the poor and underserved. Health and Medicine has been long familiar with the developments that have shaped the availability of health care to the poor in the region, and has maintained its influence by developing groundbreaking standards for public programs.www.hmprg.org

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) leads two national networks promoting economic security within the United States: the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project (FESS) focusing on the needs of low-income working families and the Elder Economic Security Initiative™ program, addressing what income seniors require to age in place. WOW works in 35 states, the District of Columbia, and at the federal level to promote programs and policies that accurately measure the income and assistance needs of families and the elderly. For more information, please visit www.wowonline.org.