

WITF News

Study Says Social Security is the Only Income for Many Older Pennsylvanians

By Taunya English, May 7, 2008

(Harrisburg) -- A new study from a coalition of advocates for elderly Americans suggests that many Pennsylvanians do not have the income they need to live well in their retirement years. The Elder Economic Security Initiative report is a county-by-county calculator that factors in housing, food, health care and other daily-living costs. It says one in four older residents in the state relies on Social Security as their only income, but notes the average payment is below what is needed to cover basic needs. Carol Goertzel is president of PathWays PA, a service organization that advocates for low-income women and families. She says residents can soon log-onto the www.pathwayspa.org to find out how much money they'll need to make ends meet in retirement.

For example, last year, the average Social Security payment in Dauphin County was about \$11,400, which is only 62 percent of what a senior needs to live well at home, as they age. Goertzel's coalition wants lawmakers to use the new calculator to more realistically plan programs and benefits for the state's seniors.

Carol's comments: http://witf.org/FM/00369_goer06c.mp3