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## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
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**Trenton-** Given the recent economic crisis, more attention should be focused on the economic well being of seniors in New Jersey. Today, baby boomers and elders are facing particular economic hardship.

Wider Opportunities for Women and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston developed the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (the Elder Index) as a new method of determining the income older Americans need for basic expenses. The New Jersey Foundation for Aging is bringing the Elder Index to New Jersey.

The Elder Index supports seniors' independence, in turn reducing the financial stress and responsibility incurred by adult children. It is based on all costs seniors face on a daily basis, such as housing, food, healthcare and transportation. In contrast, the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) fails to take into account anything beyond basic nutrition needs. Many older Americans who are in the technical sense "not poor" because they live above the FPL still struggle to make ends meet. The FPL is an outdated measure based on data from the 1950s.

In New Jersey, the Index will hopefully help to give a snapshot of what challenges seniors are facing, it will have data for all 21 counties. For more information go to [www.njfoundationforaging.org](http://www.njfoundationforaging.org) and click on **NJEESI FAQ's**.

Promoting economic independence will not just improve the lives of older Americans, but also the well being of their families and communities. New Jersey seniors have earned the right to age with dignity.

To learn more about the work of the Foundation, please visit [www.njfoundationforaging.org](http://www.njfoundationforaging.org)  
or call (609) 421-0206.

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The New Jersey Foundation for Aging was established in 1998 to create ongoing financial support for aging services in New Jersey. Its mission is to expand innovative approaches in the delivery of services that enable older adults to live in the community with independence and dignity.

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