



176 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608  
Phone 609-421-0206 Fax 609-421-2006  
Email: [office@njfoundationforaging.org](mailto:office@njfoundationforaging.org)  
[www.njfoundationforaging.org](http://www.njfoundationforaging.org)

#### Media Alert

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Contact: Grace Egan or Melissa Chalker  
609-421-0206

### **Where is the shared sacrifice? Proposed cuts hurt low-income seniors!**

**Trenton**--The proposed budget cuts will dramatically affect NJ senior residents who are already living on the edge of poverty. More than 36 percent of seniors over age 65 years have incomes under \$24,999. In 2009, the NJ Elder Index documented that a single senior renter needed on average \$25, 941 to cover their basic housing and living expenses. The County Elder Index data indicated that cost of living is even higher in some counties.

We have considered the added living expenses for seniors within the proposed budget:

- Seniors will not receive the Senior Property Tax Freeze Reimbursement or the Homestead Rebate
- Seniors will now have a deductible for PAAD
- Seniors will now have higher co-pays for prescriptions.

These cuts, additional costs and co-pays will raise the average cost of living for a single senior renter to \$27,413.

Twenty-five percent of NJ's seniors rely solely on Social Security as their source of income. This includes 275,000 seniors. The average Social Security Benefit for a senior resident of NJ is \$14,285. These seniors cannot absorb these cuts on their fixed incomes.

Thirty-six percent of NJ seniors or 396,000 persons have incomes under \$24,999. These seniors cannot afford these cuts.

Attached are the Fact Sheets for the state and counties. These sheets illustrate the basic cost of living for seniors and how these proposed cuts will hurt our most vulnerable citizens.

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