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Press Release

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Policy Session on Senior Hunger and Economic Insecurity

Trenton- - On August 11, 2011 the New Jersey Foundation for Aging (NJFA) along with other concerned partners will host a Legislative Policy Session on the issues of Senior Hunger and Economic Insecurity. This session is also hosted and sponsored by New Jersey Anti Hunger Coalition, NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, NJ Association of Area Agencies on Aging, The Episcopal Diocese of Newark, Justice Board, Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry and Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey.

This legislative forum will provide information to congressional and state lawmakers about policy issues connecting elder economics and food insecurity for seniors. Advocates will discuss the NJ data profile and the pending reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and the Farm Bill, legislation that directly impacts NJ's supplemental food programs and the ability of seniors to access these services.

Nearly 6 million older low-income Americans face food insecurity. Seniors living in a food insecure household have trouble providing regular, nutritious meals at times throughout the year. Even though there are a number of food assistance programs that could help seniors suffering from hunger, studies have found that significant numbers of older Americans do not access these programs on a regular basis. For example, there are potentially \$2 billion in unused SNAP (The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) funds for seniors. Seniors in NJ who access SNAP benefits receive an average of \$170 per month. Only 34% of those eligible in NJ are enrolled.

Ellen Teller from the national office of the Food Research and Action Center will be a presenter with local advocates on the facts and potential solutions. The session will be held on August 11th, 2011 at 2:30 at the Northern Ocean Resource Center, 225 4th Street, First Floor, Lakewood, NJ 08701. For additional information call 609-421-0206.

To learn more about the work of the Foundation visit 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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