

The Economics of Aging:

The California Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index)

Healthy Aging for Women: Preparing our Communities

October 5, 2010

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INSIGHT

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CALIFORNIANS FOR FAMILY ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

How do we know who is struggling economically?

Now...

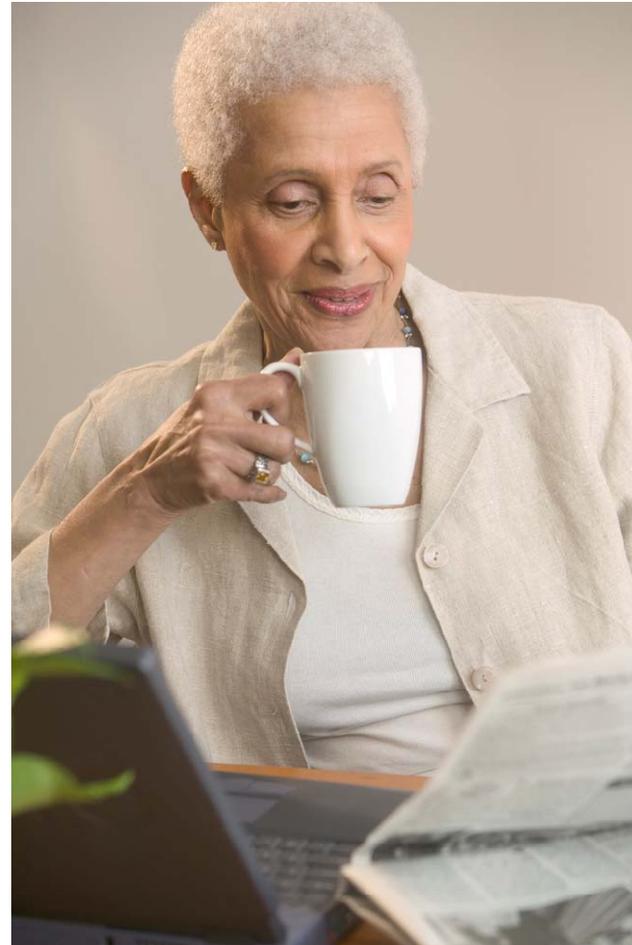
- Federal Poverty Guideline (FPL)
- 2009 = \$10,830 for single person, everywhere in U.S.
- Based on 1950's standard of living; food x 3



How do we know who is struggling economically?

The future...

- Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index)
 - Based on data from THIS century
 - Reflects actual costs specific to each *county*
 - Provides measure of goal/vision



Elder Standard, 2009 - Person

Los Angeles County

| Monthly Expenses | Los Angeles County | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Owner w/o Mortgage | Renter, One Bedroom |
| Housing | \$388 | \$1,061 |
| Food | \$251 | \$251 |
| Transportation | \$204 | \$204 |
| Health Care = Good | \$182 | \$182 |
| Miscellaneous | \$205 | \$205 |
| Elder Index Per Month | \$1,231 | \$1,903 |
| Elder Index Per Year | \$14,766 | \$22,841 |

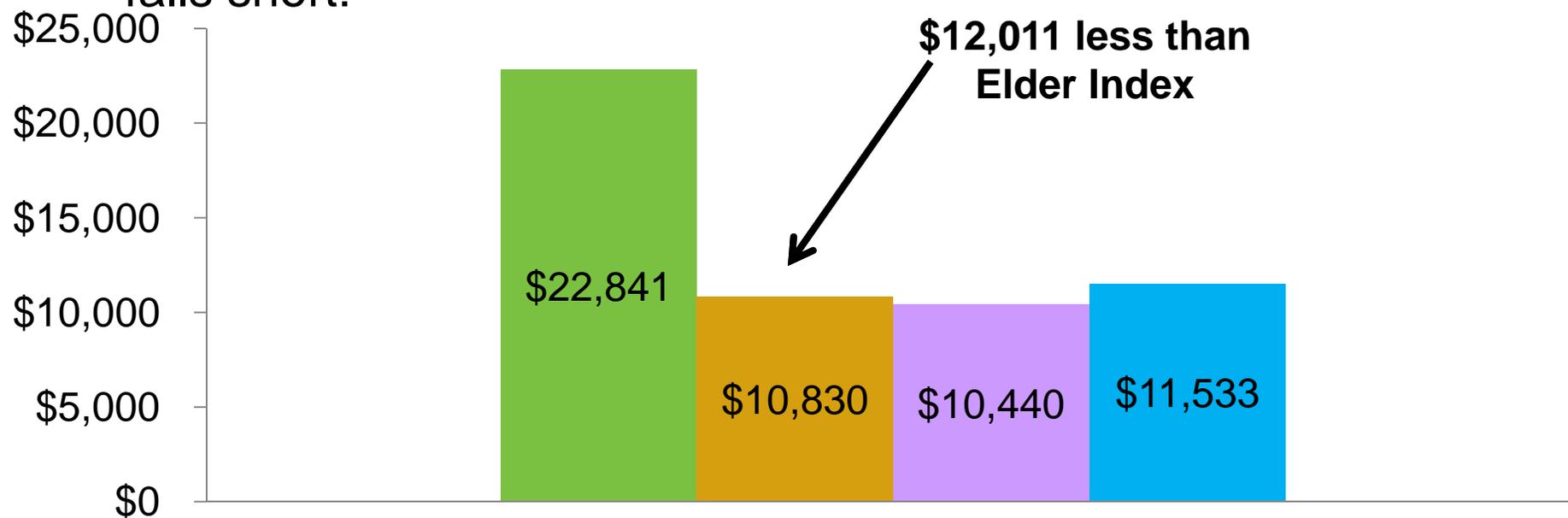
Overlooked & Underserved

- **47%** (1.76 million) of California's seniors fall below the 2007 Elder Index
- **But only...8%** (299,574) are identified as "poor" by the FPL
- **Which means... 39%** (1.45 million) of California's vulnerable seniors fall through the cracks, without access to many support programs



Compare: Los Angeles County, 2009

- Use this as an **advocacy tool** for highlighting where income falls short:



- Elder Index, Renter
- Federal Poverty Level
- SSI Payment Maximum (CA, 2009)
- Median Social Security Payment (2009)

How Elder Index is Used: California

- **California Policymakers**

- Elder Economic Dignity Act of 2009 (AB 324)
- California Economic Security Task Force Act of 2010 (SB 1084)

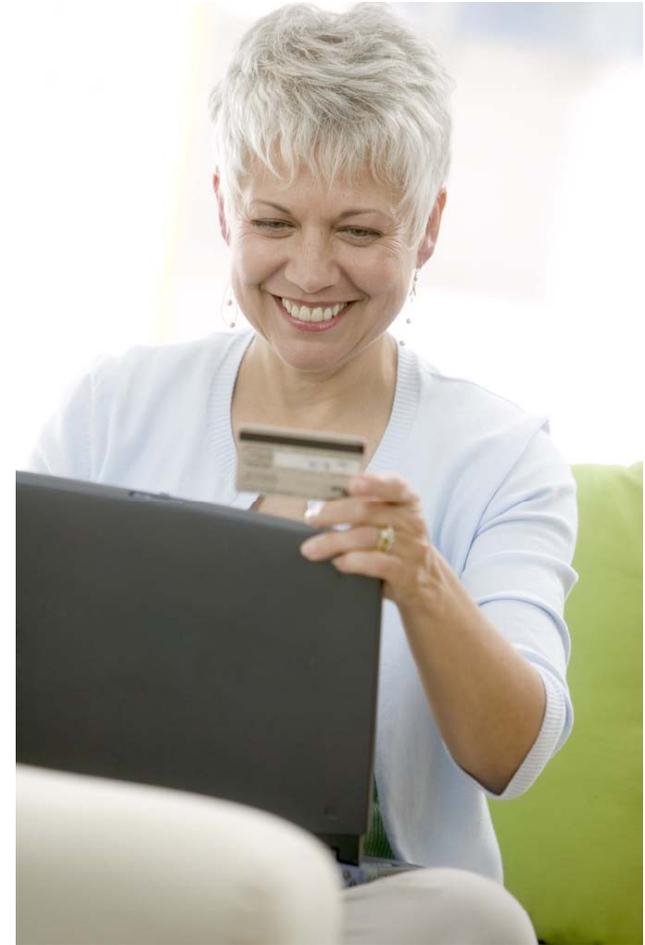
- **Public Agencies and Local Governments**

- 60% of the Area Agencies on Aging in California use the Elder Index in their Area Plans
- City and County of San Francisco passed Ordinance 88-09

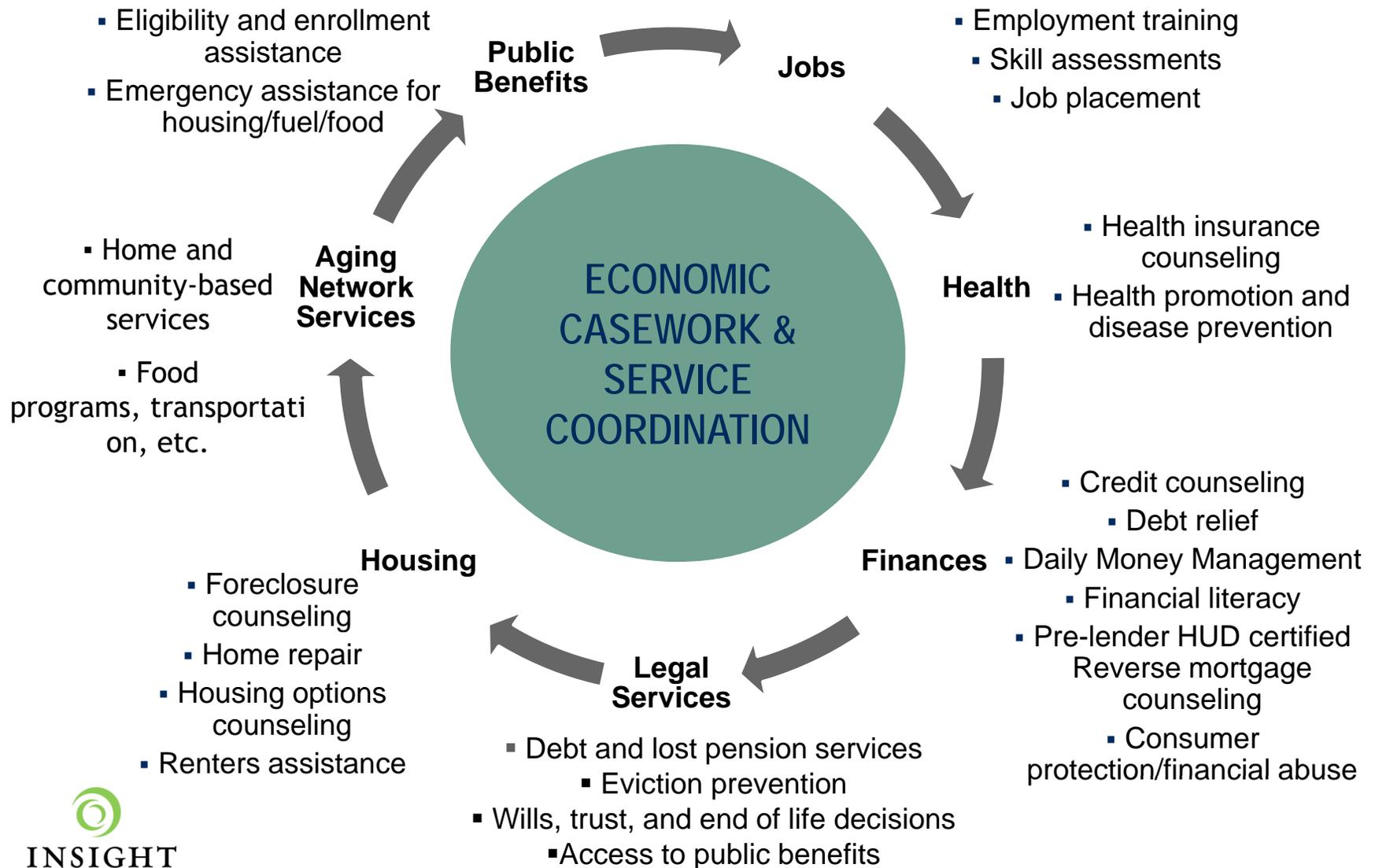


How Elder Index is Used: California

- **Direct Service Providers**
 - ElderHelp of San Diego
 - National Council on Aging's Economic Security Initiative tracks older adults' progress toward the goal of economic stability using the Elder Index



How Elder Index is Used: ElderConnect



Building the Movement



Call to Action!!

1. **Urge** your state reps to adopt the EI
2. **Urge** your Congressional reps to co-sponsor and pass MAP
3. **Fight** cuts to SS, SSI, IHHS, etc
4. **Join** the Movement!
 - Listserv
 - Local Steering Committees