# Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index

Shasta County, CA 2009

**Elder Index Per Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elder Person</th>
<th>Elder Couple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner w/o</td>
<td>$17,644</td>
<td>$27,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mortgage</td>
<td>$29,327</td>
<td>$39,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner w/mortgage</td>
<td>$20,377</td>
<td>$30,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter, one bedroom</td>
<td>$20,377</td>
<td>$30,072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Federal Poverty Guideline**

- **(2009 DHHS)**
  - **$10,830**

**% of Federal Poverty**

- **163%**
  - **271%**
  - **188%**
  - **188%**
  - **268%**
  - **206%**

**SSI Payment Maximum, California 2009**

- **$10,440**

**SSI Income Gap**

- **-$7,204**
  - **-$18,887**
  - **-$9,051**
  - **-$20,734**
  - **-$11,784**

**Median Social Security Payment 2009**

- **$11,320**

**Soc Sec Income Gap**

- **-$6,324**
  - **-$18,007**
  - **-$6,516**
  - **-$18,199**
  - **-$9,249**

**Elder Index Per Month**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elder Person</th>
<th>Elder Couple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner w/o</td>
<td>$1,470</td>
<td>$2,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mortgage</td>
<td>$2,444</td>
<td>$3,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner w/mortgage</td>
<td>$1,698</td>
<td>$2,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter, one bedroom</td>
<td>$1,698</td>
<td>$2,506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Monthly Expenses Used to Calculate Elder Index**

- **Housing**: $395, $1,368, $623
- **Food**: $244, $244, $244
- **Transportation**: $204, $204, $204
- **Health Care (Good Health)**: $382, $382, $382
- **Miscellaneous @ 20%**: $245, $245, $245

For the complete report, methodology or other counties visit: [http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/elder_index10sept.aspx](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/elder_index10sept.aspx)

### Income Needed to Meet Basic Needs
The Elder Economic Security Standard Index is the basic income needed to make ends meet for retired persons ages 65 and older. It reflects actual costs at the county level and varies by housing type and health status. The annual amounts shown are for individuals and couples who own their residences (with and without a mortgage) and who rent. The amount shown is for elders in good health (the median health status).

### Federal Poverty Guideline (2009 DHHS)
The Federal Poverty Guideline is used to calculate income eligibility by many public programs. For example, the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit's Low Income Subsidy (LIS or “extra help”) is available to recipients with incomes under 150% of poverty. The data shown is the amount the guideline needs to be raised in this county to accurately identify those without adequate incomes as determined by the Elder Index.

### SSI Payment Maximum California, 2009
The SSI Payment Maximum for California is the maximum income provided by the state's Supplemental Security Income program for low-income elders with almost no assets. The data shown is the gap between the maximum SSI payment and the amount needed to cover basic costs according to the Elder Index.

### Median Social Security Payment 2009
Half of Social Security recipients have benefits under this amount in this county. The data shown is the gap between the median social security payments in this county and the amount needed to cover basic costs according to the Elder Index.

### Basic Monthly Expenses Used to Calculate Elder Index
The Elder Economic Security Standard Index is calculated using data on the basic costs of living for older adults in each county. Owners' costs include mortgage (if any), taxes, insurance, and utility expenses. Food costs are based on the USDA’s low-cost food plan for meals eaten at home, adjusted for county cost variations. Transportation includes local automobile use. Health care includes out-of-pocket health care costs and premiums for an elder in good health. For elders in fair or poor health, out-of-pocket costs increase by $27/month; for excellent or very good health costs decrease by $18/month. Miscellaneous costs cover expenses not included elsewhere, such as nonprescription medicines, cleaning products, household items, personal hygiene items, and telephone.

The California Elder Economic Security Initiative™ program is led by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development as part of a national program headed by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW). The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research modeled the Elder Economic Security Standard Index for California counties using the national methodology developed by the UMass-Boston Institute of Gerontology and WOW.