

# STATE WIDE

## New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.

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### Warren County Seniors Living on the Edge

#### **1. Elders in Warren County at the poverty level or with the average Social Security benefit cannot make ends meet.**

The average Social Security benefit provides an elder living alone in Warren County 56% - 85% of the amount needed to cover their basic living expenses.

In Warren County, elder living on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 42% - 64% of their basic living expenses.

The average Social Security benefit provides an elder couple living in Warren County 67% - 88% of the amount needed to cover their basic living expenses.

In Warren County, elder couples living on an income equivalent to the federal poverty guideline can cover only 42% - 55% of their basic living expenses.

#### **2. Elders living alone in Warren County need \$16,860-\$25,500 to cover their basic annual living costs.**

Elders still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$34,992.

Elders with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or elder affordable housing units, as well as assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs. Elders living alone in Warren who own their home without a mortgage need \$16,860 a year to cover their basic living expenses.

If elders rent an apartment in Warren County, their basic living expenses increase to \$19,752.

#### **3. Elder couples in Warren County need \$26,352-\$34,992 to cover their basic annual living costs.**

Elder couples in Warren County who own their home without a mortgage need \$26,352 a year to cover their basic living expenses.

If elders rent an apartment in Warren County, their basic living expenses increase to \$29,244.

Elders still paying a mortgage face housing costs more than double those for homeowners without a mortgage, increasing annual living expenses to \$34,992.

Elder couples with lower incomes need rent subsidies and/or affordable housing units, as well as assistance to cover supplemental health plan costs.

#### **4. Elders experiencing changes in their life circumstances, such as losing a spouse or experiencing a decline in health status face an uncertain economic future.**

A member of an elder couple paying market rate rent in Warren County has expenses reduced by only 32% when a spouse dies; \$19,752 from \$29,244, yet his or her income may decrease substantially based on the mix of Social Security and/or pension income.

Elders in good health in Warren County face healthcare costs of \$292 per month—more than they spend on food. Declines in health status result in a rise in health care expenses, increases the cost per month for a single elder.

### ***Wider Opportunities for Women***

***Elder Economic Security Initiative™: The Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index for New York***