

SEARCH

f t EMAIL US 888 4 GAY NEWS (888) 442-9639



NEWS COMMENTARY CAUSES ENTERTAINMENT SOCIAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS EVENTS PARTNERS EQUALITY DIRECTORY POLITICS OPINIONS

OPINIONS

COMMENTARY: Elder Economic Planning Act is a major win for all Californians

PAUL DOWNEY - CEO & PRESIDENT, SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTERS
November 1st, 2011

1 0 Share 3

We all aspire to age and with age we all hope to be able to provide ourselves with the basic needs to simply survive – home, food, health care, transportation, etc. However, this is not the case for all seniors. Many struggle to get by daily and though they may have saved in their youth, unforeseen circumstances can turn almost anyone's lives upside down.

In October, all Californians received a major win as Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Elder Economic Planning Act of 2011 (AB 138) requiring the use of the Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index), rather than the antiquated Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines, so local Area Agencies on Aging can more appropriately plan services and programs for local seniors. AB 138 provides a better measure of senior poverty through the Elder Index, a new tool that accurately quantifies the annual cost of meeting basic needs for retired, older adults in each county throughout the state of California.

California leads the nation with more than 300,000 seniors living below the FPL. Additionally, more than 864,000 California seniors do not have enough income to cover their most basic needs. Previously, local Area Agencies on Aging were forced to rely on the antiquated FPL which was created in the mid-1960's and was solely based on the cost of a bare-bones food diet, and covered less than half of the basic costs experienced by adults age 65 and older in the state. FPL did not provide an accurate, local picture of economic needs for seniors and as a result agencies ended up with inconsistent alternatives to assess poverty in their communities. This lack of uniformity was not only inefficient, but also more costly and less effective since many agencies were having to conduct their own expensive research.

AB 138 does not require California to spend additional money updating the Elder Index and already supplies information on senior living costs on a county-by-county basis. As the senior population continues to grow, it is crucial that we plan and take the necessary steps to provide accurate levels of poverty for our seniors.

The passing of the Elder Economic Planning Act of 2011 was a long time coming and a team effort by aging agencies throughout our state, as well as the voices of many California seniors and advocates. With the new Elder Index baseline, low-income seniors will be able to have their needs more realistically assessed and most importantly their basic needs will be met.

About Paul Downey and Senior Community Centers

Founded in 1970, Senior Community Centers is a nonprofit agency transforming the aging experience for San Diego seniors through nutrition, health and wellness services, advocacy and transitional and supportive housing that increase the quality of life for seniors living in poverty and allowing them to live independently for as long as possible. The organization has been skillfully led for more than 16 years by Chief Executive Officer and President Paul Downey, who is also the president of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs and the California Nutrition Coalition. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities or more information, please visit [HERE](#), Facebook or Twitter, or call (619) 487-0743.

Tags: [aging](#) [Elder Economic Planning Act of 2011](#)

0 SHARE 3 1 DIGG THIS PRINT THIS ARTICLE

Add a comment... Comment using...

Facebook social plugin

ENLARGE



Paul Downey

DISCOVER SD INSIDER HOOK UP San Diego's Best Spas and Salons up to 90% OFF GET HOOKED UP TODAY

SDGLN READER POLL Do reality TV shows like "Real World," "A-List New York" and "A-List Dallas" show the LGBT community in a good light?: Yes No VOTE

FILMOUT SAN DIEGO CRUISING NOV. 9TH, 7:00 PM TICKETS: \$10.00 BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92104 FILMOUTSANDIEGO.COM

VISIT OUR MEDIA PARTNERS



ADVERTISE WITH SDGLN
[MORE INFORMATION](#)

SAN DIEGO GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

- [About Us](#)
- [Contributors](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Client Central](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Feed](#)

Username: *

Password: *

LOGIN

NEWS

- [Chick-Fil-A tastes mighty good to anti-gay... 11.01.2011](#)
- [VIDEOS: State Department's Daniel... 11.01.2011](#)
- [Man, 20, arrested in strangulation in... 11.01.2011](#)
- [Hong Kong government funding discredited... 11.01.2011](#)
- [Man brutally attacked in apparent hate... 10.31.2011](#)
- [SDGLN Poll: Majority of readers don't... 10.31.2011](#)

COMMENTARY

- [COMMENTARY: Elder Economic Planning Act is... 11.01.2011](#)
- [COMMENTARY: Kim Kardashian divorce, not... 10.31.2011](#)
- [COMMENTARY: Halloween is America's... 10.28.2011](#)
- [COMMENTARY: Sexual minorities persecuted... 10.27.2011](#)
- [VIDEO: HRC letter to NOM - Fess up about... 10.26.2011](#)
- [LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Why I support the... 10.26.2011](#)

CAUSES

- [VIDEO: Equality Forum seeking nominations... 11.01.2011](#)
- [SLDN to host annual fundraiser soiree... 11.01.2011](#)
- [LIVE: MTV Dance Party promoting... 10.31.2011](#)
- [ACTION ALERT: Ask Arizona superintendent... 10.31.2011](#)
- [VIDEO: Online charity auction benefitting... 10.31.2011](#)
- [Meet LGBT History Month icons Virginia... 10.31.2011](#)

FLAWLES

- [Theophilus London Featuring Sara Quin Out... 07.22.2011](#)
- [Lesbian Lookout: San Diego Pride 2011 07.14.2011](#)
- [Queer Youth Coalition Hosts Drug-Free... 07.13.2011](#)
- [Kickball Tournament Supports United... 07.07.2011](#)
- [Les Stuff You Should Know More About:... 07.03.2011](#)
- [NYC Artist Captures Self Evident Truths in... 06.30.2011](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

- [GLAAD's What to Watch on Tuesday 11.01.2011](#)
- [VIDEO: Tina Lifford's "The... 11.01.2011](#)
- [Arriba! An Aruban adventure 10.31.2011](#)
- [GLAAD's What To Watch on Monday 10.31.2011](#)
- [THEATER REVIEW: "Heroes"... 10.29.2011](#)
- [Candye Kane to play late night show at... 10.28.2011](#)

HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS

- [Scott Herman's Getting Fit VIDEO:... 10.27.2011](#)
- [Dirty Cleats: Predictions for NFL's... 10.27.2011](#)
- [Boot-ique: Halloween can be full of scary... 10.24.2011](#)
- [Did the path to AIDS actually start in... 10.24.2011](#)
- [Dirty Cleats: Predictions for NFL's... 10.21.2011](#)
- [Myths & misconceptions of LGBT... 10.20.2011](#)

SOCIAL

- [Hedy's Hints: A closer look at home... 11.01.2011](#)
- [Verizon bestows San Diego LGBT Center with... 10.31.2011](#)
- [Aunt Johnny: Campaign strategies make poor... 10.31.2011](#)
- [Gaytravel.com and Grindr want to send you... 10.31.2011](#)
- [Green Tip of the Week: Minimize the... 10.31.2011](#)
- [Eco-friendly Hillcrest sign gets an "... 10.28.2011](#)

BOTTOMLINE

- [Can you consolidate or negotiate your way... 10.28.2011](#)
- [Same-sex relationships: Pre and post... 10.20.2011](#)
- [When it comes to wills, do mothers know... 09.16.2011](#)
- [Q-Legal: How to avoid palimony 08.30.2011](#)
- [Medical malpractice: A national epidemic 08.26.2011](#)
- [Celebrity Q&A: Meet Tony Moran 08.12.2011](#)

© Copyright 2009-2011 Hale Media, Inc..

[ABOUT](#) [CONTRIBUTORS](#) [CONTACT](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [DISCLAIMER](#) [RSS FEED](#)

Sign up for our newsletter

SIGN UP