



The Role of Senior Centers in Building the Economic Security of Older Adults

**Sue Getman, Executive Director
Wilmington Senior Center**

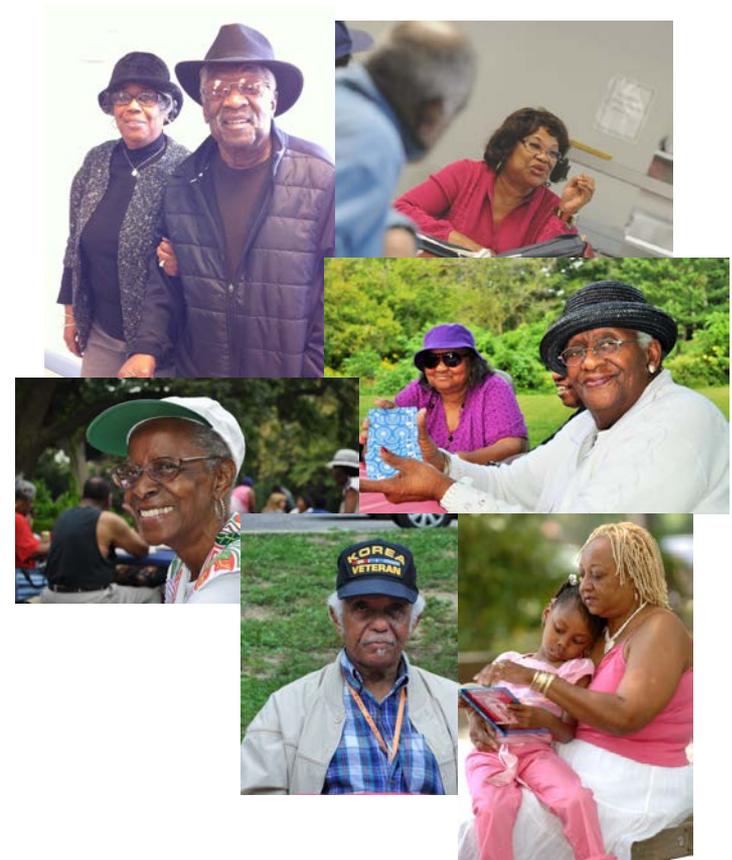
**Chair, Executive Committee
National Institute of Senior Centers**

Wilmington Senior Center

Wilmington, Delaware



- Oldest senior center in Delaware
- Diverse programming for target group:
 - city residents
 - low income
 - primarily African-American
- Economic security program created due to:
 - increased evidence of senior hunger
 - demand for employment services
 - financial challenges for caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren





How do I make ends meet?

How can I afford food and medicine?

How am I going to pay all of my bills?

How do I save for or survive retirement?

How can I repair my credit?

How do I save for an unexpected emergency?

Wilmington Senior Center & Economic Security



What is \$tand By Me 50+?

**Statewide program offered by the
Wilmington Senior Center that
provides information, resources and support
to increase the economic stability of
Delawareans ages 50 and older
who are planning for or in retirement**

<http://standbymede.org/>

Free Financial Coaching

Coaches & customers discuss:

- ✓ **How to manage everyday spending**
- ✓ **How to create a budget**
- ✓ **Building and repairing credit**
- ✓ **How to increase savings**
- ✓ **When to collect Social Security**



EconomicCheckUp

- Interactive online tool used with customers to assess economic well-being and help them answer the question: **am I making the most of my money?**
- ECU provides tips and resources in local communities to help individuals manage budgets, save money, find work, and set financial goals
- Becomes the foundation of a concrete plan to achieve greater economic security.

Additional Online Resource



- Questions to help identify benefits that could save money and cover the costs of everyday expenses
- A personal report created with description of programs that may help with:
 - Medications
 - Food
 - Utilities
 - Legal
 - Health care
 - Housing
 - In-home services
 - Taxes
 - Transportation
 - Employment Training

Benefits Access

With the assistance of a financial coach, customers apply for benefits such as:

- Health care coverage
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Cash Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Senior Commodity Food Program
- Long Term Care

Financial Literacy Workshops

- Savvy Saving Seniors (ncoa.org/SavvySeniors)
- Retirement Preparation
- Financial Resources for Caregivers

Retirement Planning Workshop Series

Essential information for anyone planning to retire will be shared by local experts on the following topics:

- ❖ October 20 – Preparing for Retirement
- ❖ October 27 – Retirement Income Planning
- ❖ November 3 – Investment Options for Retirement
- ❖ November 10 – Finding Funds to Save
- ❖ November 17 – Utilizing Financial Planning Tools

All workshops are provided at no cost to participants.

Mondays October 20th to November 17th, 5:30-7pm
YMCA Delaware Central Branch
501 W. 11th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Free parking at Colonial Parking lot next to YMCA
Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided.

 To register for this series or for a single workshop, contact Stand By Me 50+ at 302-651-3401

Awards and prizes will be earned by participants who complete all 5 sessions!

Sponsors: Stand By Me 50+ and

Savvy Saving Seniors®

Becoming Resource-FULL
with the Help of Benefits
& Peace of Mind
Savings



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OUTLINE & FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



WOMEN'S RETIREMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP SERIES

*Essential information for women planning to retire!
Participate in workshops led by local experts.*

March 2: When to Retire and Challenges Women Face
March 9: Retirement Income/Social Security Strategies
March 16: Decreasing Debt

All workshops are free and run from 4:45-6:15 p.m.
DHSS Campus, 1901 N. Dupont Hwy., Admin. Building, New Castle

To register for this series or for a single workshop, contact
Stand By Me 50+ at 302-651-3401

Success Stories

<https://youtu.be/eHvNXNnGIkk>



Key Community Resources

Partners in Aging

- Senior Centers
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Area Agency on Aging (AAA) & State Unit on Aging
- Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- Foster Grandparents
- Volunteer Delaware 50+
- State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)
- Senior residences
- National Council on Aging
- National Community Reinvestment Coalition

Other Important Partners

- State of Delaware
- United Way of Delaware
- Goodwill of Delaware & Delaware County
- Faith-based organizations
- Community Development Credit Unions (example: Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union)
- Consumer Credit Counseling Services (example: Clarifi)
- Financial Institutions (example: Bank of America
<https://www.bettermoneyhabits.com/index.html>)
- University of Delaware Cooperative Extension program
- Libraries



National Council on Aging

Making it happen at your organization

- **Assess current economic security services**
- **Assess readiness to expand economic security initiatives**
 - Staff and volunteers
 - Existing partnerships
- **Consult with issue experts and senior center professionals**
 - NISC Economic Security Team
 - Senior center participants in NCOA Economic Security Initiatives
- **Identify local and national funding opportunities**
 - Financial institutions
 - Community foundations and United Way
 - Community development organizations
 - Housing providers
 - Repackage existing services

For more information

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