

Royal Throne

*The golden years—Older Iowans,
Seniors, Elderly, Retired, Aging....*



June 2015

Poverty Increasing Among Retirees

The gap between the wealthiest and poorest retirees is growing.

Growing numbers of older Americans are spending their retirement years in poverty, according to a recent Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) study. The proportion of older people living below the poverty line has been growing steadily since 2005, and many of those people are falling into poverty as they age and spend down their savings.

Poverty rates for people ages 65 to 74 climbed from 7.9% in 2005 to 9.4% in 2009, according to the EBRI analysis of University of Michigan health and retirement study data. For older retirees ages 75 to 84, there was an even steeper increase, from 7.6% to 10.7% over the same time period. But it's the oldest retirees who are the most likely to live in poverty; 14.6% did so in 2009.



One of the biggest drivers of poverty in old age is failing health and the associated medical costs. Most retirees living below the poverty line (70%) have suffered acute health conditions such as cancer, lung disease, heart problems, or stroke, compared with 48% for those above the poverty line, according to health and retirement study data.

- Read more at <http://money.usanews.com>

Facts on aging populations in

New Opportunities 7-county service area (Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie and Sac Counties):

- **19,667**—The number of seniors living in our 7 county service area.
- **1,458**—The number of seniors living in poverty in our 7 county service area (100% of poverty).
- **987**—The number of seniors New Opportunities assisted last year in the 7 county service area at 100% of poverty.
- **1,899**—The number of seniors New Opportunities assisted last year in our 7 county service area at 151% of poverty.

New Opportunities offers income eligible programs for the elderly through the County Family Development Centers (*not all services are offered in each county).

- Food Assistance
(Food Pantry, SHARE Program)
- Energy Assistance
- Weatherization
- Utility Crisis Assistance
- Clothing Closet
- Elderbridge Chore Services
- Elderly Waiver Chore Programs

New Opportunities County Family Development Centers:

- Audubon County: 712-563-2777
- Calhoun County: 712-297-7721
- Carroll County: 712-792-9266
- Dallas County: 515-465-5185
- Greene County: 515-386-2719
- Guthrie County: 641-747-3845
- Sac County: 712-662-3236



Green "to go" - Not brewing your coffee at home? Take a travel cup to your favorite java joint; they may fill it at a discount. ~ www.goodhousekeeping.com

Your Mind is a Garden. Your Thoughts are Seeds. You Can Grow Flowers OR You Can Grow Weeds. ~ Unknown