

Measuring Senior Security: The Colorado Elder Index

The 2015 Elder Economic Security Standard Index (Elder Index) is a measure of the income retired seniors need to meet basic needs and age in place. The Elder Index ranges from \$17,268 to \$52,776 per year depending on Colorado seniors' housing types and household sizes and where they live. Seniors with incomes below their local Elder Index are likely to make difficult spending choices, to go without one or more basic need, and to have trouble remaining in their homes as they age and/or their health declines. For more Elder Index info and data, and info on the Colorado Center for Law and Policy's work to help seniors close their economic security gaps, visit CCLP online.

Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Colorado, 2015

	Single Elder			Elder Couple		
Expenses	Homeowner w/o Mortgage	Renter	Homeowner w/ Mortgage	Homeowner w/o Mortgage	Renter	Homeowner w/ Mortgage
Housing	\$427	\$735	\$1,411	\$427	\$735	\$1,411
Food	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$476	\$476	\$476
Transportation	\$246	\$246	\$246	\$380	\$380	\$380
Health Care	\$361	\$361	\$361	\$722	\$722	\$722
Miscellaneous	\$259	\$259	\$259	\$401	\$401	\$401
Elder Index per Month	\$1,553	\$1,861	\$2,537	\$2,406	\$2,714	\$3,390
Elder Index per Year	\$18,636	\$22,332	\$30,444	\$28,872	\$32,568	\$40,680

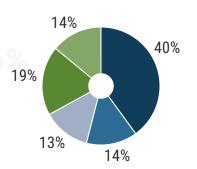
Elder Index Expenses of a Single CO Elder Renter

Housing

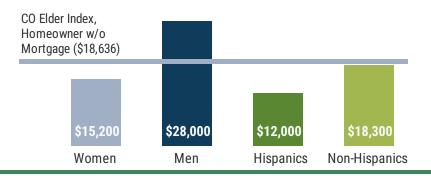
Transportation

Health Care
Miscellaneous

Food



What It Takes to Make Ends Meet vs. Median Retirement Incomes for...



Retirement Income Requirements Across the State

The Elder Index value for CO renters is lowest, \$19,788, in Prowers County. The highest value is \$27,168, for sparsely populated counties with economies dominated by ski resort areas (such as Vail). Slightly less pricey areas include Boulder, Routt and Garfield Counties.

Those Colorado counties with the largest senior populations--Jefferson, El Paso, Arapahoe, Denver and Adams Counties--all have relatively moderate retirement income requirements for renters. El Paso County's Elder Index for single renters is ranked 35th; Boulder County, with the state's 7th largest senior population, is ranked 5th, and has the highest income requirement among counties with large senior populations.

