

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Helen Ridley

Director of Advocacy & Community Relations
904-391-6615
ridleyh@elderaffairs.org

**ElderSource Chosen to Launch Pilot Project to Help
Low-Income Elders Enroll for Benefits**

Jacksonville, FL-More than 10,000 low-income Florida elders who haven't been able to navigate the state's online food stamp enrollment system will now be able to get personal help, thanks to a pilot project funded by a half-million-dollar grant received by the Department of Elder Affairs.

Florida's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp program, requires that most applicants for benefits fill out their requests online. However, a large portion of Florida's 4.45 million seniors are not regular computer users, and statewide 58 percent of eligible elders do not participate in SNAP. The three-year pilot project will enable elders who are reluctant or unable to visit an office location or apply online to call the state's Elder Helpline and have a trained professional enter the online data for them.

"As Florida government moves further into the electronic age, we must be careful to make sure our older residents don't get left behind," said Elder Affairs Interim Secretary Charles T. Corley. "This pilot project will help make sure that thousands of elders will be able to receive important help they otherwise might never have asked for."

The pilot project will be conducted in 35 of Florida's 67 counties, served by five Area Agencies on Aging. The five selected areas have the highest number of low-income elders with the lowest usage of food stamps. In those counties, 72 percent of eligible elders do not participate in SNAP. ElderSource was one of the five agencies chosen to pilot the SNAPS program serving the seven county service area of Baker, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns, Volusia, and Clay County.

As the Northeast Florida Area Agency on Aging, ElderSource is the one-stop shop for Seniors and their caregivers in Northeast Florida. As the Aging Resource Center for this region, ElderSource offers a variety of services to persons 60 and above.

ElderSource helps you find information, resources, and services for aging related issues. The Elder Helpline is the portal to a variety of community resources including direct services, like home care & meals and free, unbiased Medicare/Medicaid counseling. We encourage active seniors with wellness and preventative activities. For a list of ElderSource Services please go to our web site:

<http://www.myElderSource.org/services.shtml>
or call the Elder Helpline at 888.242.4464.