



News Release

ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN, INC.

For Immediate Release
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A Bright Spot – Financial Help for Seniors

Lansing, MI

Although times are tough, adults 60 and over may qualify for a little extra to help make ends meet. **With the Economic Recovery Act, benefits have risen for the first time in years.** There is money available to help pay the cost of groceries and Medicare premiums, if people invest an hour to apply at a local MiCAFE site. MiCAFE stands for Michigan’s Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly. MiCAFE is a collaborative partnership with community and faith-based organizations that makes applying for public benefits easy and convenient. A MiCAFE appointment is time well spent; they might qualify for \$1,348 a year or more in extra help.

“Every day we hear from adult children that their parents just can’t get by in these hard times,” Kate White, Executive Director of Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. states. “There are thousands of older adults in Michigan skipping meals because their fixed incomes and the rising cost of living don’t leave them enough to pay for food, medicine, rent and utilities. Often, adult children are the first person a parent turns to, and MiCAFE can help by giving the parent a little more support to make ends meet.”

Real people get real help with MiCAFE. In her long, independent life, Ms. Reba Smith of Detroit had never asked for help, and at first wasn’t sure she wanted to. Ms. Smith applied for a Bridge Card with free help from MiCAFE. Ms. Smith was approved and now receives money every month on her Bridge Card to help her pay for groceries. Now Ms. Smith can buy things like bacon and butter that she wouldn’t usually be able to afford without the Bridge Card. Ms. Smith says that every dollar helps.

MiCAFE has dedicated volunteers in the community who want to help older adults stay financially independent. To get free help to apply for programs like Food Assistance, Medicare Savings, Medicare Low Income Subsidy, call MiCAFE at **1-877-664-2233** or make an appointment at a MiCAFE site. For a list of sites visit the website www.elderlawofmi.org/MiCAFE. MiCAFE is a program of Elder Law of Michigan, Inc., a 501 c3 non- profit organization.

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