

1. National Endowment for Financial Education

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) is a Denver-based nonprofit foundation dedicated to helping Americans acquire the information and gain the skills necessary to take control of their financial lives. The NEFE grants program seeks innovative research and research-based development programs that can make a profound contribution to the field of financial literacy. Inquiries from disciplines in fields as diverse as behavior, economics, neuroscience, sociology, psychology, marketing, finance, education, change theory, decision sciences, and others are encouraged.

Project outcomes should be actionable in the field of financial literacy, directly relevant to the financial well-being of the public, and have the ability to be applied broadly. Project outcomes must be capable of achieving traction and measurable impact with one or more audiences such as financial education intermediaries, researchers, practitioners, decision makers, and/or entities who can achieve effective outreach to a target population with an unmet financial literacy need or the public in general.

Next deadline is December 4, 2007; applications are reviewed in two annual cycles. For more information, visit <http://charitychannel.com/publish/templates/?a=14438&z=26>.

2. "US healthcare burden is 'causing pension cutbacks'," by Rebecca Knight (Financial Times via MSNBC.com, October 23, 2007). <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21443209/>

3. US GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT: "State and Local Government Retiree Benefits: Current Status of Benefit Structures, Protections, and Fiscal Outlook for Funding Future Costs," (GAO-07-1156, September 2007, .pdf format, 70p.).

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071156.pdf>

Note: This is a temporary address. GAO reports are available at:

<http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/date.php>

4. US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FINAL RULE ANNOUNCEMENT: "Employee Retirement Income Security Act: Participant directed individual account plans; default investment alternatives," (_Federal Register_, Vol. 72, No. 205, October 24, 2007, ASCII text and .pdf format, p. 60452-60480).

ASCII:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/07-5147.htm.pdf>:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-5147.pdf>

5. CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE REPORT: "Retirement Savings Accounts: Fees, Expenses, and Account Balances," by Patrick Purcell (RL34213, October 2007, .pdf format, 15p.)

<http://opencrs.cdt.org/document/RL34213>

6. MICHIGAN RETIREMENT RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER: (Vol. 8, No. 4, October 2007, HTML and .pdf format, 15p.). <http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/publications/newsletters/>

7. MICHIGAN RETIREMENT RESEARCH CENTER:

A. "Are 401(k) Saving Rates Changing? Cohort/Period Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study," by Irena Dushi and Marjorie Honig (WP 2007-160, October 2007, .pdf format, 27p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/publications/index_abstract.cfm?ptid=1&pid=514

B. "The Impact of Private Participation on Disability Costs: Evidence from Chile," by Estelle James and Augusto Iglesias Palau (WP 2007-161, October 2007, .pdf format, 41p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/publications/index_abstract.cfm?ptid=1&pid=513

C. "Financial Literacy and Stock Market Participation," by Maarten van Rooij, Annamaria Lusardi and Rob Alessie (WP 2007-162, October 2007, .pdf format, 46p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

http://www.mrrc.isr.umich.edu/publications/index_abstract.cfm?ptid=1&pid=515

8. PENSION RESEARCH COUNCIL, WHARTON SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Note: PRC requires free registration before providing working papers.

"Hidden Regret and Advantageous Selection in Insurance Markets," by Rachel J. Huang, Alexander Muermann, and Larry Y. Tzeng (WP2007-32, October 2007, .pdf format, 33p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

<http://www.pensionresearchcouncil.org/publications/document.php?file=404>

9. BOSTON COLLEGE CENTER FOR RETIREMENT RESEARCH: Note: for all of the below listed working papers, links to an abstract and full text are available at the sites.

A. "Population Aging, Labor Demand, and the Structure of Wages," by Margarita Sapozhnikov and Robert K. Triest (WP#2007-14, October 2007, .pdf format, 32p.).

http://crr.bc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=482&Itemid=4

B. "Evaluating the Advanced Life Deferred Annuity - An Annuity People Might Actually Buy," by Guan Gong and Anthony Webb (WP#2007-15, September 2007, .pdf format, 17p.).

http://crr.bc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=4

C. "Measurement Error in Earnings Data in the Health and Retirement Study," by Jesse Bricker and Gary V. Engelhardt (WP#2007-16, October 2007, .pdf format, 39p.).

http://crr.bc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=484&Itemid=4

D. "The Role of Governance in Retirement Investments: Evidence from Variable Annuities," by Richard Evans and Rüdiger Fahlenbrach (WP#2007-20, October 2007, .pdf format, 35p.).

http://crr.bc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=481&Itemid=4

10. RAND CORPORATION LABOR AND POPULATION PROGRAM: "Intervivos Giving Over the Lifecycle," by Michael Hurd, James P. Smith, and Julie Zissimopoulos (WR-524, October 2007, .pdf format, 47p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR524/

11. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH: "Rational and Behavioral Perspectives on the Role of Annuities in Retirement Planning," by Jeffrey R. Brown (W13537, October 2007, .pdf format, 35p.).

Abstract:

This paper discusses the role of annuities in retirement planning. It begins by explaining the basic theory underlying the individual welfare gains available from annuitizing resources in retirement. It then contrasts these findings with the empirical findings that so few consumers behave in a manner that is consistent with them placing a high value on annuities. After reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the large literature that seeks to reconcile these findings through richer extensions of the basic model, this paper turns to a somewhat more speculative discussion of potential behavioral stories that may be limiting demand. Overall, the paper argues that while further extensions to the rational consumer model of annuity demand are useful for helping to clarify under what conditions annuitization is welfare-enhancing, at least part of the answer to why consumers are so reluctant to annuitize will likely be found through a more rigorous study of the various psychological biases that individuals bring to the annuity decision.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W13537>

12. "Gray Googlers' strike gold: Some seniors earn surprising income from ads on websites," by Jefferson Graham (USA Today [McLean, Virginia], Oct. 26, 2007).

<http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/money/20071026/greygoogle.art.htm>

13. "The Ethics of Dividing Inheritance," by Steve Inskeep (US National Public Radio _Morning Edition_, Oct. 26, 2007, audio software required to listen to this transcript, running time 4 minutes, 2 seconds).

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15655325>