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UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM DEBATE

Century Foundation Releases Revised Edition of *The Basics: Social Security Reform*

New York City, Feb. 1, 2005—The future of Social Security, the federal insurance program largely responsible for reducing poverty among the elderly from more than 35 percent in 1959 to 10 percent today, is once again at the center of the national agenda. The Century Foundation has released a new publication designed to put facts back at the center of this important debate. **The Basics: Social Security Reform, revised 2005 edition**, offers clear and concise information about Social Security and the reform debate. Through graphs and easy-to-digest explanations, the Social Security Basics answers questions about how the program works, its history, what's right and wrong with the current program, how our system compares to those of other countries, and the impact of reform proposals.

The Basics: Social Security Reform is the latest publication from The Century Foundation's Social Security project. The project is designed to inform the debate over Social Security reform by providing straightforward and accurate information, research, and analysis to legislators, journalists, and the general public. This booklet and other informative publications on this subject can be found online at The Century Foundation's Social Security Network, www.socsec.org, or the foundation's main site, www.tcf.org.

Greg Anrig, vice president for programs at The Century Foundation, one of the authors of **The Basics: Social Security Reform**, also is the author of [Ten Myths about Social Security](#), and the coauthor (with Bernard Wasow) of [Twelve Reasons Why Privatizing Social Security is a Bad Idea](#), a Century Foundation issue brief, and coeditor (with Richard C. Leone) of the book *Social Security: Beyond the Basics*. Anrig is available for interviews and commentary about important issues in the debate over Social Security reform and privatization. For more information, contact Christy Hicks at (212) 452-7723.

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2/1/2005

The Century Foundation conducts public policy research and analyses of economic, social, and foreign policy issues, including inequality, retirement security, election reform, media studies, homeland security, and international affairs. The foundation produces books, reports, and other publications, convenes task forces and working groups, and operates seven informational Web sites. With offices in New York City and Washington, D.C., The Century Foundation is nonprofit and nonpartisan and was founded in 1919 by Edward A. Filene.