



# More Women Donating Eggs In Bad Economy

## *Donations Rose 30 Percent At One Clinic*

POSTED: 11:14 pm PDT July 30, 2008  
UPDATED: 11:45 pm PDT July 30, 2008

**LAS VEGAS --** As the economy continues to stagnate, more and more women are looking for ways to make ends meet -- and some are eyeing their eggs.

As TV station KVVU in Las Vegas reported, women across the country have been heading to fertility clinics to donate their eggs. Some say it's altruism, but others are more frank.

Melissa, who declined to give her last name, admitted the main reason she's donating eggs is because she's struggling financially.

"My husband has had me stay home for the last five years. I stayed home for my children, so the money definitely benefited my family," she said.

At the Center For Egg Options in Illinois, the number of women donating has increased significantly since April.

"There's no reason to think that suddenly there's 30 percent more people who have suddenly had this inner feeling to help out people. And what's changed? It's the economy," said fertility specialist Ed Marut.

Fertility centers have also a surge repeat donors and surrogates.

A woman who passes the health and psychological screenings can get thousands of dollars in return for her donation.

"The donors will make in the area of \$7,000, and the surrogates will make anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 plus," said Nancy Block, founder of the Center For Egg Options.

Dr. Bruce Shapiro, of the Fertility Center of Las Vegas, said compensation is closer to \$3,000 to \$5,000. But he said he hopes the economy is not the main reason more women are donating.

"We really try to have people who donate for altruistic reasons. That's the best of all worlds," Shapiro said.

He said it is a fairly simple process that takes about three weeks.

"It's more invasive than donating sperm, but still, it's painless, and there's more time involved, but we try to make it as smooth a process as possible," Shapiro said.

He said the side effects of donation usually include some aches and cramps, similar to those of a woman's period.

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