

From the National Association of Counties website:

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Consumers save more than \$60 million nationwide
with NACo's Prescription Drug Discount Card Program

Counties helping residents save 22% on prescription purchases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties' (NACo) [Prescription Drug Discount Card Program](#), available to millions of Americans of any age, income level or health condition, has saved consumers more than \$60 million on their prescription drug purchases at their local pharmacy.

In May 2005, the NACo Board of Directors made the program available to all member counties after a highly successful launch in 2004 as a 17-county pilot program in partnership with CVS/Caremark, Inc. of Nashville, Tenn.

Since the program began, \$60.6 million has been saved by consumers on more than 5.5 million prescriptions filled using the NACo discount card. The average savings is about 22 percent per prescription. The actual savings per purchase ranges from 13 to 34 percent, depending on the drug.

More than 920 counties are participating nationwide, with hundreds of other counties considering it.

The NACo prescription drug discount cards are free to obtain and easy to use. There are no age, health or income restrictions on who can use the cards and there are no registration forms to fill out. The program offers uninsured or underinsured consumers with immediate, at-the-register discounts on their prescription drug purchases through a nationwide network of 57,000 participating pharmacists. The card can be used by senior citizens and by counties for jail inmates. (See Q & A document below for more information)

"NACo's Prescription Drug Discount Card Program has easily surpassed our expectations," said NACo President Eric Coleman, commissioner, Oakland County, Mich. "People are saving an average of 22 percent on their prescriptions hassle-free thanks to their local county board or legislature. It's almost too good to be true."

According to NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake, county leaders asked what the national association could do to really help their residents deal with the high cost of prescription drugs.

"We came to the conclusion that helping people save money on their prescriptions was a real benefit we could offer," Naake said. "After a committee of county officials reviewed proposals from several companies, NACo entered into a partnership with Caremark to administer the program. It's been a tremendous success."

There is no cost to the county, county taxpayers, or consumers to participate in the program. CVS/Caremark negotiates the discounts directly with the pharmacies. Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program.

The NACo card cannot be used in conjunction with other prescription drug insurance on any one purchase. However, consumers with insurance are allowed to use the card to purchase prescriptions that are not covered by their insurance.

For more information about the program, visit www.naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through

education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org

What is the NACo Prescription Discount Program?

NACo, in partnership with CVS/Caremark Rx, Inc. of Nashville, Tenn., have created the NACo Prescription Discount Card Program to help consumers residing in NACo member counties save money on their prescription drug purchases at participating pharmacies. Specifically, the free cards provide at-the-register savings for consumers who have no prescription drug insurance or need certain medications that are not covered by their insurance. NACo provides the cards as a benefit to its member counties.

How much will consumers save?

The average savings is about 22 percent. Savings may range from 13 to 34 percent depending on the medication. Consumers may save up to 50 percent on mail order purchases.

What are the costs associated with the program?

There is no cost to the county, county taxpayers, or consumers to participate. Caremark negotiates the discounts directly with participating pharmacies. Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program.

How easy is it to participate?

There are no enrollment fees, no forms to fill out, no age or income requirements, and no medical condition restrictions for consumers to use the NACo card. In addition, the entire family is covered with just one card and virtually all commonly prescribed medicine is covered.

Who is eligible to obtain and use the card?

The NACo prescription discount cards are provided free to residents living in participating NACo member counties across the country. A national network of more than 57,000 retail pharmacies will honor the card.

Can consumers use their card in conjunction with their insurance to get a bigger discount?

No. The NACo card cannot be used in conjunction with other prescription drug insurance on any one purchase. However, consumers with insurance are allowed to use the card to purchase prescriptions that are not covered by their insurance.

Will consumers always receive the lowest retail price?

Yes. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate available with the NACo card. If that occurs, consumers will receive the lower price. Either way, consumers will always receive the best price available.

Does the county have to track who has the cards or monitor card use?

No. Counties need only to make the cards available to residents.

For more information about NACo and the program, visit:

www.naco.org

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