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Hamilton County's New Prescription Drug Discount Card Available to All County Residents

Discount Cards Offer Average Savings Of 22 Percent Off Retail Price

Cincinnati (Jan. 22, 2009) Hamilton County is launching a program today that will provide discount cards to help county residents cope with the high price of prescription drugs.

The free prescription drug discount cards provide an average of 22 percent savings off the retail price when used to purchase prescription drugs. The cards are available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). There is no cost to the taxpayer for the program.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at most pharmacies throughout the county. More than 1,000 counties throughout the country participate in the program and a national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our county, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan," said Hamilton County Commissioner David Pepper. "Residents do not have to be uninsured or Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries to be eligible for this program. The nice thing about it is that it is open to everyone."

Among those who benefit from the program:

- County residents who are uninsured.
- County residents who are insured but a drug may not be covered on their insurance plan.
- County residents who must buy human drugs for their pets.

"In times of economic trouble, it is nice to be able to provide a small amount of relief without an added financial burden to taxpayers," Commissioner Pepper said. "This is another tool for the toolbox of programs Hamilton County offers to help citizens in all walks of life."

The county has 200,000 discount cards on hand, with 20,000 cards printed in Spanish. The cards are available at the County's Job and Family Services Department, 222 E. Central Parkway or 237 William Howard Taft Road, at branches of the

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, YMCA branches, the Council on Aging of Southwest Ohio and many social service agencies, such as the FreeStore Foodbank and Talbert House. Residents can also call 946-1010 or visit www.HamiltonCountyRx.com for more information.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. "Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."

The discount card program is administered by CVS Caremark but accepted at almost any pharmacy.