



Lake County

Health Department and
Community Health Center

For Immediate Release

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Prescription Discount Card Helps Lake Countians Save Almost \$1 Million *Free Cards Are Available throughout the County*

Lake County residents struggling to cope with an uncertain national economy are receiving financial relief on their prescription purchases due to a program involving Lake County government and the National Association of Counties (NACo). Since the NACo/Lake County prescriptions drug discount card program started in this county in 2005, Lake County consumers have saved more than \$919,506 on prescriptions they purchased with the card. The cards have offered an average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs and an average price savings of \$10.92 per prescription.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at 80 percent of the county's pharmacies. A national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Lake County is proud to be one of over a thousand counties nationwide participating with NACo in this program," said Irene Pierce, the Lake County Health Department's Executive Director. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our county. Even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program."

To make it easy for residents throughout the County to obtain the cards, the Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center has distributed them to most city, town and village halls, township offices and libraries. For assistance with the program, County residents can call toll free: 1-877-321-2652 or visit: <http://www2.caremark.com/naco/>.

To use the NACo/Lake County prescription discount card, simply present it at a participating pharmacy, such as Walgreen's, CVS or Osco. There is no enrollment form,

no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. The card can be used by anyone, including those with insurance. It can be used instead of one's insurance (the price may be lower with the card than with insurance) but it cannot be used in addition to one's insurance. There is also a prescription by mail service for those medications needed for three months or longer that provides greater discounts than the standard 20 percent. The card also covers prescription drugs for pets. The program is administered by AdvancePCS, a division of Caremark Rx, Inc. of Nashville, Tenn.

The NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program, which was created in partnership with CVS Caremark, was made available to NACo members nationwide in 2005. 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 and drug manufacturers. Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program. For more information on the program, visit: <http://lakecountyiil.gov/Health/want/RX.htm>.

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