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Cities offer discount cards to save money on prescriptions

By AUDREY PARENTE, Staff writer 

Ormond Beach and Palm Coast citizens save money on prescribed medicines because their cities became members of the National League of Cities prescription discount program.

More than 600 Ormond Beach residents have saved a total of \$24,000 since June 2010, when the city joined the program.

More than 400 Palm Coast have saved nearly \$5,000 since that city joined in mid-2009, according to records kept by CVS Caremark, which administers the free program.

But anyone can visit government facilities of either municipality and request the discount card, said Jayne Timmons, spokeswoman for human resources in Ormond Beach.

"Our City Commission found out about this through the Florida League of Cities," Timmons said. "It doesn't cost the city or citizens anything and results in approximately a 20 percent savings on each drug prescription.

"We don't ask where they live, and it's free to anybody that wants it," she said. "The card is available at just about all our city facilities and CVS, the Historical Trust and the Chamber of Commerce."

Wendy Cullen, Palm Coast human resources spokeswoman, said her city experienced a similar situation.

"We did it as health care costs continued to rise," she said. "It looked like a great program to help citizens. They send us a report every month."

Prescription drug discount cards in Palm Coast are available at the fire station, utility office and other city offices, she said. Residency isn't required.

Cards can be printed from the Internet at caremark.com/nlc.

A customer care representative who answered Caremark's toll-free number, 877-321-2652, said the cards carry no age, income level or existing health coverage restrictions. Individuals can shop at participating retail pharmacies for the best price, then use the discount card to achieve the lowest possible cost for drugs.

A dozen local pharmacies participate, including Walmart and Walgreens. When traveling in the states, the discount card is valid at more than 60,000 participating pharmacies.

Cities can join the program by completing a form on the National League of Cities' website, nlc.org.

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