

Resources for and Referrals to Free or Low-Cost Prescriptions

Outlined below are the various resources that are made available to individuals who contact DHHS offices with questions about how to access free or low-cost prescription medications.

Community Resources

Needy Meds (www.needymeds.org)

NeedyMeds is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit information resource dedicated to helping people locate assistance programs to help them afford their medications and other healthcare costs. NeedyMeds' mission is to be the best source of accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date information on programs that help people facing problems paying for medications and health care; to assist those in need in applying to programs; and to provide health-related education using innovative methods. NeedyMeds is funded by small grants, donations, sponsorships, subscriptions to PAPTracker, and syndication of some of our database information. NeedyMeds also works with the patient assistance programs of several pharmaceutical distributors.

FamilyWize (www.familywize.org/about-the-card)

FamilyWize acts like a huge consumer group buying service for the uninsured and underinsured. The discounts and savings on medications are provided voluntarily by the more than 61,000 participating pharmacies that have agreed to provide prices similar to what they give large insurance companies and employers. Ultimately, it is the pharmacy that provides the savings. All funding for the FamilyWize program is provided by part of the dispensing fee that is included in the cost of medicines when a FamilyWize card is used to save money. Consumers always get the lowest price, which will be the discount price with the FamilyWize card or the pharmacy's usual and customary retail price, whichever is lower.

Scrips4Less (www.scrips4less.com)

Scrips4Less Patient Assistance Program helps patients across America receive their brand name medication directly from the pharmacies. Scrips4Less is an organization that specializes in matching consumers with medicine and prescription assistance programs.

The Community Assistance Program (CAP) Discount Prescription Card (www.caprxprogram.org)

This program was established in response to the many requests for assistance for the uninsured and underinsured with their prescription needs. The CAP card saves the cardholder an average 15% on brand name medications, and 55% on generic medications. The discount prescription cards are accepted at over 80% of pharmacies in the US. Anyone can use the CAP card, regardless of age or income. The discount prescription card can allow someone to fill a prescription when they may normally go without.

Maine Rx Card (www.mainerxcard.com)

Maine residents have access to a statewide Prescription Assistance Program (PAP). This card will provide consumers with Rx medication savings of up to 75% at more than 56,000 pharmacies across the country including CVS/pharmacy, Hannaford, Osco, Target, Walgreens, and many more.

Walgreens Prescriptions Savings Club

(http://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy/psc/psc_overview_page.jsp?ban=rxh_psc_3)

Members get special discounts off the cash price of thousands of brand-name and generic medications as well as numerous other benefits when they use their card.

Walmart \$4.00 Prescriptions (www.walmart.com)

Makes a variety of prescriptions available to members at the low cost of \$4.00.

Consumers for Affordable Health Care (<http://mainecahc.org>)

Consumers for Affordable Health Care is an advocacy organization that strives to ensure a strong consumer voice in decision making at all levels and in all forums in order to advocate for a consumer-oriented health system in Maine and the United States. Consumers for Affordable Health Care provides resources to educate consumers and assist them in navigating the existing system.

Provider Resources

Federally Qualified Health Centers' (FQHC) 340B Drug Pricing Program

(<http://www.hrsa.gov/opa/eligibilityandregistration/healthcenters/fqhc/>)

The 340B Drug Pricing Program requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations/covered entities at significantly reduced prices. The 340B program enables covered entities to stretch federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.

Maine Hospital-Affiliated Prescription Assistance

(<https://211maineportal.communityos.org/zf/profile/agency/id/103135>)

Many hospitals have a program that helps individuals receive free or low-cost prescription medicines. Members are often directed to their local hospital or 2-1-1 to find out what is available in their area. An example of a Hospital-Affiliated Prescription Assistance program is below.

Redington Fairview Hospital's Prescription Assistance Program

(<http://www.rfgh.net/PatientInformation/PrescriptionAssistanceProgram.aspx>)

This program offers free or low-cost prescription medicine to individuals who:

- *Are a legal U.S. resident*
- *Cannot afford their prescription drugs*
- *Need medication for long-term use*
- *Have a doctor affiliated with RFGH*
- *Can provide proof of income and other documentation*

MaineHealth CarePartners Program (http://www.mainehealth.org/mh_body.cfm?id=3441)

CarePartners coordinates the provision of donated healthcare services for low-income, uninsured residents in four Maine counties (Cumberland, Lincoln, Waldo and Kennebec). The program, a partnership between MaineHealth, physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers, helps community members who don't qualify for public or private healthcare coverage programs get comprehensive, medically necessary healthcare.

MaineHealth MedAccess Program (http://www.mainehealth.org/mh_body.cfm?id=4002)

MedAccess works with individuals and healthcare providers to identify ways patients can save money on prescription medications. The free program, administered by MaineHealth, helps patients and healthcare providers evaluate options such as pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs, low-cost generic programs, and Medicare Part D and state and local prescription programs that can help save on prescription medication costs.

Rite Aid Rx Savings Program (<https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/prescription-savings/rite-aid-prescription-savings-program>)

Saves consumers 15% or more on thousands of brand name and generic prescription. Consumers get:

- Savings of at least 15% on select brand name prescriptions
- A 30-day supply of select generics for \$9.99 and a 90-day supply for \$15.99
- Select generic oral contraceptives for \$19.99
- A 50-count of Rite Aid TRUEtest diabetic test strips for \$29.99

CVS CareMark (<http://www2.caremark.com/nlc/how.htm>)

The National League of Cities (NLC) Prescription Discount Card is a FREE program offered to help people save money on the high cost of prescription medications. This prescription discount card is brought offered to city governments in collaboration with the NLC. Individuals can use the card anytime their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The NLC Prescription Discount Card program is available only to member cities of the National League of Cities.

CVS Pharmacy Discount Card (<http://freedrugcard.us/cvs.html>)

Saves members an average of 30% on their prescription drugs.

In addition to these referrals, callers are also referred to 2-1-1 and the Area Agencies on Aging (for Medicare Part D assistance).