


Florida Discount Drug Card Press Coverage



Florida's Official Discount Drug Card for All Florida Residents

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Charlie Crist
Governor

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Welcome to the Official Florida Discount Drug Card Program

All Floridians can sign up for the Florida Discount Drug Card to save on their prescription medications. Use this web site to print a card, locate a pharmacy, and compare prescription drug prices.



From the Governor
Saving on prescription drugs in Florida has never been easier. The Florida Discount Drug Card is now available to all Florida residents without restriction and is accepted at over 60,000 pharmacies nationwide. Florida residents who qualify based on age or income status are eligible to receive additional savings. Signing up is simple and activation is instant.

Charlie Crist

[Sign Up Now](#) I am a Florida resident and would like to participate in the program.

Enroll by Telephone: 1-866-341-8894 or TTY Users may call: 1-866-763-9630

Media



- **WFSU.org**
 - Florida Discount Drug Card Program Expands, 4-6-2010
- **WPTV.com**
 - Prescription Drug Card, 4-7-2010
- **MiamiHerald.com**
 - Discount Drug Card Program Expanded in Florida, 4-7/2010
- **Cape-Coral-Daily-Breeze.com**
 - Governor Crist announces expansion of Florida Discount Drug Card access to all Florida residents, 4-6-2010
- **SunSentinel.com**
 - Prescription drug discount card available to all Floridians, 4-6-2010
- **10Connects.com**
 - Discount drug card program expanded, 4-6-2010
- **WTXL.com (ABC27 HD)**
 - FL's discount drug card program extending it's benefits [sic], 4-6-2010
- **SunshineStateNews.com**
 - Discount Prescription Drugs for All, Crist Announces, 4-7-2010
- **FirstCoastNews.com**
 - Florida Prescription Drug Program Now Available to All Residents, 4-6-2010
- **WKRG.com**
 - Discount Drug Card Program Expanded in Florida, 4-6-2010
- **Jacksonville.bizjournals.com**
 - Discount drug card available to all, 4-7-2010
- **TBO.com**
 - Discount drug program expanded in Florida, 4-6-2010
- **Tallahassee.com (USA Today)**
 - Discount drug program expanded in Florida, 4-6-2010
- **FosterFollyNews.com**
 - Expansion of Florida Discount Drug Card Access, 4-7-2010
- **WireUpdate.com**
 - Florida Discount Drug Card now available to all Florida residents, 4-6-2010

Media



- **StAugustine.com (The St. Augustine Record)**
 - Discount Drug Program Expanded, 4-7-2010
- **StAugustine.com**
 - County's discount prescription cards show big savings, 4-8-2010
- **KSIB.net (Kissimmee St. Cloud Internet Broadcasting)**
 - Official Florida Discount Drug Card Program, 4-8-2010
- **WCTV.tv.com (CBS Tallahassee Thomasville Valdosta)**
 - SHINE Program to Help More Elders with Insurance Options, 4-9-2010
- **NorthEscambia.com**
 - Florida Discount Drug Card Available To All Residents, 4-12-2010
- **LeHighAcresCitizen.com**
 - Discount Drug Cards now available for everyone, 4-14-2010
- **Orlando Business Journal (online)**
 - Discount drug card available to all, 4-7-2010
- **FortMyersBeachTalk.com**
 - Letters to the Editor, Notes from the Capital, 4-14-2010
- **am540WFLA.com**
 - Discount Drug Card Now Available to All, 4-12-2010
- **MyFlorida.com, Department of Management Services**
 - Tallahassee Weekend April 9-11, 2010, Announcements
- **Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer, State of Florida**
 - Healthcare, Florida Resources (page on website)
- **Examiner.com**
 - Discount drug program expanded in Florida, 4-6-2010
- **NGA.org (NGA Center for Best Practices)**
 - Front and Center, Florida Broadens Discount Drug Program, 4-16-2010



WFSU Local

Florida Discount Drug Card Program Expands

Gina Jordan (2010-04-06)

TALLAHASSEE, FL (wfsu) - Governor Charlie Crist calls it another exciting milestone in the ongoing quest to extend affordable healthcare access to every Floridian. Gina Jordan tells us cheaper medicine is now available to anyone who signs up for it.

Crist has announced the expansion of the Florida Discount Drug Card program.

"This was initially designed to help those who are struggling with prescription drugs and the cost thereof, not already getting help and they need it, offered to help working individuals and families with incomes less than 300-percent of the federal poverty level, and those ages between 60 and 64. But today, we are proud to announce that we're extending the cost saving program to every single Florida resident; no age limit, no income requirement, no waiting period, no preexisting condition restrictions, no membership fees."

The program began about two and a half years ago, and 135-thousand Floridians have already signed up. The card is accepted at over sixty-thousand pharmacies around the country. Users must show the card every time they get a prescription filled in order to receive the negotiated, lower price. Crist says participants have saved a total of \$6-million out of pocket on medications. Douglas Beach is Secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

"When seniors don't have access to affordable medications, the likelihood that they will remain independent in their homes quickly diminishes. Even with the Medicare prescription drug program known as Medicare Part D, many Florida seniors fall into a gap in prescription drug coverage called the donut hole. According to a recent UCLA study, sixteen-percent of all older Americans on Medicare are likely to reach the donut hole."

Beach says this discount drug program is critical because a lot of seniors have to choose between life saving medications and other important expenses. He doesn't expect the federal healthcare reform bill to have any effect on the program. Crist says this will mean real relief for more families.

"It is easier than ever to sign up for the Florida Discount Drug Card. All you need to do is go to the website www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com."

The savings will vary depending on the quantity, type and brand of the medicine. It's okay to carry another prescription discount card as well, although only one card can be used at a time.

Sign-up is available at www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com or by calling 866-341-8894.

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Prescription Drug Card

Reported by: [Thalia Hayden](#)

Email: thayden@wptv.com

Last Update: 12:32 pm

[Fla. Discount Drug Card offer savings to all Floridians](#)

Prescription drugs (file photo) (MSNBC)

WEST PALM BEACH, FL-- Florida's Discount Drug Card program is now open to all Floridians. It used to be offered only to seniors and low income families, but now everyone can get one.

Savings will vary depending on the quantity and brand of the medication, but the official website says the card does offer discounts on virtually every prescription drug. Governor Charlie Crist says 135,000 Floridians have already signed up for the program, which saved more than \$6 million dollars.

The card is accepted by 60,000 pharmacies nationwide.

There is no sign-up fee, but you will pay a one-time \$1.50 activation fee, which you pay for when you buy your first prescription.

By signing up online you can qualify for a temporary card right away and it activates within three hours.

For more information, go to the attached link or call (866) 341-8894



Discount drug program expanded in Florida

Related Content

<http://www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com>

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist said Tuesday there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.



Gov. Crist announces expansion of Florida Discount Drug Card access to all Florida residents

All Florida residents eligible regardless of age, income status

POSTED: April 6, 2010

TALLAHASSEE Gov. Charlie Crist announced Tuesday the Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income families and individuals beginning in December 2007, is now available to all Florida residents.

Florida residents who meet the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates. The governor praised the expansion of the successful market-based initiative to increase access to affordable health care coverage in Florida.

"Florida remains committed to increasing access to affordable health care and finding innovative solutions to achieve this goal," said Crist in a prepared statement. "The Florida Discount Drug Card has been proven to be a low-cost solution for families and seniors in need of affordable prescription drugs, and now we are rightly extending the savings to all Florida residents. I urge Floridians to sign up to begin receiving discounts on their prescription drugs."

All Florida residents now qualify: no age limit, no income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees and the card instantly activates. Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and have an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify. These participants are still eligible and can now receive additional savings when purchasing their prescription drugs with the card. For participants under age 60, qualifying annual incomes for the additional savings are as follows:

\$32,490 for an individual

\$43,710 for a family of two

\$66,150 for a family of four

Income limits for other family sizes are available on the Web site,
www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com.



Participants who qualify for additional savings will be able to download a temporary card directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site and will receive a physical card by mail for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is only added to the cost of the first prescription. The temporary downloaded card activates within three hours.

Requesting a Florida Discount Drug Card is easy, and there is no sign-up fee for the card. Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon sign-up. Participants have the option of requesting a physical card to be mailed directly to a home or office for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is assessed when purchasing the first prescription. Floridians can request a Florida Discount Drug Card by visiting www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 1-866-341-8894 or TTY 1-866-763-9630. Information on the Web site is available in English, Spanish and a Creole version will be available soon. Multilingual drug card service representatives are available by calling the toll-free number.

More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide. If the pharmacy's usual and customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price. Additionally, if the customer qualifies for any other prescription discounts, they will always pay the lowest price. If a consumer learns a pharmacy is not enrolled in the program, it can be enrolled on a temporary basis, so the consumer can immediately take advantage of the discount. A 24-hour pharmacy helpline is available to assist with pharmacy enrollment. Once the pharmacy has signed a contract, it can permanently join the program. The Florida Discount Drug Card Web site provides an easy-to-use pharmacy locator tool, as well as a drug pricing index.

No tax dollars are used to make the Florida Discount Drug Card available. A public-private partnership with Envision Pharmaceutical Services makes the discounts possible. EPS pharmacy benefits manager secures volume discounts on prescription drugs, passing savings onto consumers. Participating pharmacies must agree to the negotiated prices.

As of March 2010, prior to the expansion, Crist announced that more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on December 20, 2007. With over 61,000 prescriptions filled, participants saved \$6 million in prescription-drug costs.

Source: Office of Gov. Charlie Crist



Prescription drug discount card available to all Floridians

Modest savings available

April 06, 2010 | By Bob LaMendola, Sun Sentinel

All Floridians can now get the state's Florida Discount Drug Card, which gives modest price breaks on prescription medications at participating drugstores, Gov. Charlie Crist said Tuesday.

When it was created in December 2007, the card was limited to low- and moderate-income people and to senior citizens, but the governor said more people need the help during the recession.

In addition, those who were originally eligible for the discount card will now be eligible for deeper price cuts from the manufacturers, Crist said. You qualify if you make less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$66,150 for a family of four.

The card's discounts vary from drug to drug but generally are modest. Since the card became available, more than 135,000 people have signed up for it and saved \$6 million on about 61,000 prescriptions, or about \$98 per prescription, the governor said.

There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions and no membership fees. Those who qualify for the extra discounts will pay a one-time signup fee of \$1.50.

For information, go to <http://www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com> or call 866-341-8894.



Discount drug card program expanded

Dave Heller

Date last updated: 4/6/2010 4:36:30 PM

Florida expands its Discount Drug Card program.

Florida's "Discount Drug Card" program is now open to all Floridians.

The program started in 2007 for seniors and low-income families, but now it is being expanded to all residents of Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist calls the expanded program extraordinary. He says it's a milestone in the goal of offering greater access to affordable health care.

The governor says 135,000 Floridians have already signed up for the program and saved more than \$6 million in the process.

"We are proud to announce that we are offering the cost-saving program to every single Florida resident. No age limit, no income requirement, no waiting period, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees."

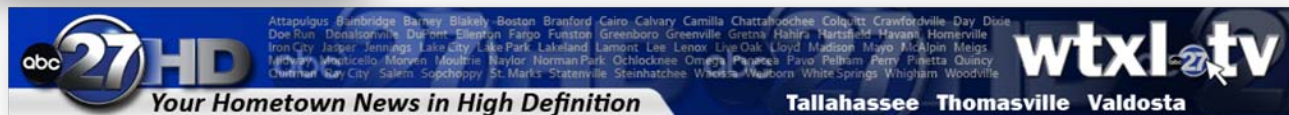
The card is accepted by 60,000 pharmacies nationwide.

You can find out more about the program at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 1-866-341-8894.

You can qualify for a temporary card at the Web site. It activates within three hours.

There is no sign-up fee, but you will pay a one-time \$1.50 activation fee, which you'll pay when you buy the first prescription.

Dave Heller



FL's discount drug card program extending it's benefits

Posted: April 6, 2010 05:37 PM

Updated: April 6, 2010 05:37 PM

Saving on prescription drugs in Florida has never been easier. Florida's discount drug card program is extending benefits to more residents. April 6th at the capitol Governor Charlie Crist announced the new changes.

He says the seniors already enrolled in the plan will qualify for additional savings. But the biggest change: no age limit. Residents can use the discount drug card out of state. So far, 135,000 families have signed up for the program.

<http://www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com/>



Discount Prescription Drugs for All, Crist Announces

By: [Alex Tiegen](#) | Posted: April 7, 2010 12:32 AM

Gov. Charlie Crist announced Tuesday that he wants to make reduced-cost drugs available to all Floridians.

In a press conference with Douglas Beach, secretary of the state Department for Elder Affairs, Crist said he was lifting the age and income limit for his Florida Discount Drug Card program.

“To have a discount drug card available to every Floridian regardless of age is extraordinary,” Crist said in a press conference.

The Florida Discount Drug Card was started by Crist in 2007 as a resource for lower-income Floridians between 60 and 64. The card, accepted by 60,000 pharmacies statewide, has been issued to about 135,000 Florida residents.

Residents who met the card’s previous eligibility requirements will receive rebates for the card.

The card, funded by a public-private partnership, costs the state nothing in tax dollars and can be used at any of the state’s major pharmacies.

The Florida Retail Federation thinks the expansion is a positive move, said Sally West, a lobbyist with the agency that represents Publix and other major retail pharmacies.

“It’s a state-negotiated discount with the chain drug stores, and we’re thrilled about it,” she said.

Andrea Gary, a public relations specialist with the Department of Elder Affairs, said the program is important in a state with such a concentrated population of elderly residents.

“Hopefully, more seniors will save on their prescriptions,” she said.



Florida Prescription Drug Program Now Available to All Residents

Dave Wax Created: 4/6/2010 4:35:07 PM Updated: 4/6/2010 4:35:07 PM
by Dave Heller, Capital Bureau

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida's "Discount Drug Card" program is now open to all Floridians.

The program started in 2007 for seniors and low-income families, but now it is being expanded to all residents of Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist today called the expanded program extraordinary, saying it's a milestone in the goal of offering greater access to affordable [health](#) care.

Crist said 135,000 Floridians have already signed up for the program and saved more than \$6 million in the process.

The card is accepted by 60,000 [pharmacies](#) nationwide.

"We are proud to announce that we are offering the cost-saving program to every single Florida resident -- no age limit, no income requirement, no waiting period, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees."

You can find out more about the program at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 866-341-8894.

You can qualify for a temporary card at the Web site. It activates within three hours.

There is no sign-up fee, but you will pay a one-time \$1.50 activation fee, which you'll pay when you buy the first prescription.

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Discount Drug Program Expanded In Florida

by (AP) TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

Published: Tue, April 06, 2010 - 3:28 pm CST

Last Updated: Tue, April 06, 2010 - 4:42 pm CST

Tallahassee, Florida - A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist said Tuesday there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.

On the Net: <http://www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com>



Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 11:04am EDT

Discount drug card available to all Jacksonville Business Journal

The Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income individuals, is now available to all Florida residents.

Gov. Charlie Crist announced April 6 that Florida residents meeting the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates. More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide.

All Florida residents now qualify, with no age limit or income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees, and the card activates instantly.

Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and with an annual income of less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

As of March 2010, before the expansion, more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch Dec. 20, 2007.

Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon signup at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com.



Discount drug program expanded in Florida

The Associated Press

Published: April 6, 2010

Related Links [Program Web site](#)

TALLAHASSEE - A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist said today there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.



Discount drug program expanded in Florida

Posted 4/6/2010 5:35 PM ET

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist said Tuesday there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.



Expansion of Florida Discount Drug Card Access

All Florida residents eligible regardless of age, income status.

Wednesday April 7th, 2010

www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has announced the Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income families and individuals beginning in December 2007, is now available to all Florida residents. Florida residents who meet the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates. The Governor praised the expansion of the successful market-based initiative to increase access to affordable health care coverage in Florida .

“ Florida remains committed to increasing access to affordable health care and finding innovative solutions to achieve this goal,” said Governor Crist. “The Florida Discount Drug Card has been proven to be a low-cost solution for families and seniors in need of affordable prescription drugs, and now we are rightly extending the savings to all Florida residents. I urge Floridians to sign up to begin receiving discounts on their prescription drugs.”

All Florida residents now qualify: no age limit, no income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees and the card instantly activates. Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and have an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify. These participants are still eligible and can now receive additional savings when purchasing their prescription drugs with the card. For participants under age 60, qualifying annual incomes for the additional savings are as follows:

- \$32,490 for an individual
- \$43,710 for a family of two
- \$66,150 for a family of four
- Income limits for other family sizes are available on the Web site, www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com.

Participants who qualify for additional savings will be able to download a temporary card directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site and will receive a physical card by mail for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is only added to the cost of the first prescription. The temporary downloaded card activates within three hours.

Requesting a Florida Discount Drug Card is easy, and there is no sign-up fee for the card. Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon sign-up. Participants have the option of requesting a physical card to be mailed directly to a home or office for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is assessed when purchasing the first prescription.

Floridians can request a Florida Discount Drug Card by visiting www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 1-866-341-8894 or TTY 1-866-763-9630. Information on the Web site is available in English, Spanish and a Creole version will be available soon. Multilingual drug card service representatives are available by calling the toll-free number.



More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide. If the pharmacy's usual and customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price. Additionally, if the customer qualifies for any other prescription discounts, they will always pay the lowest price. If a consumer learns a pharmacy is not enrolled in the program, it can be enrolled on a temporary basis, so the consumer can immediately take advantage of the discount. A 24-hour pharmacy helpline is available to assist with pharmacy enrollment. Once the pharmacy has signed a contract, it can permanently join the program. The Florida Discount Drug Card Web site provides an easy-to-use pharmacy locator tool, as well as a drug pricing index.

No tax dollars are used to make the Florida Discount Drug Card available. A public-private partnership with Envision Pharmaceutical Services (EPS) makes the discounts possible. EPS pharmacy benefits manager secures volume discounts on prescription drugs, passing savings onto consumers. Participating pharmacies must agree to the negotiated prices.

As of March 2010, prior to the expansion, Governor Charlie Crist announced that more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on December 20, 2007. With over 61,000 prescriptions filled, participants saved \$6 million in prescription-drug costs.

Additional Health Care Benefits for Floridians

Other partnerships with the private sector have also provided health care benefits for Floridians in the form of *Cover Florida* Health Care and the Florida Medicaid Health Information Network.

***Cover Florida* Health Care**

Cover Florida Health Care offers affordable, quality health insurance coverage and access to uninsured Floridians age 19 to 64. In its first two years of availability, more than 5,200 Floridians have enrolled in *Cover Florida* Health Care. Approximately 82 percent of enrollees have chosen catastrophic coverage, and 18 percent have chosen preventive coverage.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida and United Healthcare are available in all 67 Florida counties with additional insurers available in Broward, Miami-Dade, Volusia, and Flagler counties. Each plan has a robust set of benefit options that include coverage for preventive services, screenings, office visits, as well as office surgery, urgent care, hospital coverage, emergency care, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, and diabetic supplies.

For more information about *Cover Florida*, visit www.CoverFloridaHealthCare.com.

Florida Medicaid Health Information Network

The *Florida Medicaid Health Information Network* is improving the quality of health care for Florida's Medicaid recipients by allowing Medicaid providers real-time access to health information on their Medicaid patients. Medicaid recipients authorize access to the information and can revoke that permission later if they choose. The program helps health care providers make better-informed decisions about their patients by providing access to up to 18 months of Medicaid claims history. Florida is the first state in the nation to make this information available to its Medicaid providers at no cost.

Created without cost to Florida's taxpayers, the information network is made available via a secure portal through a partnership with the private sector. Available information includes Medicaid claims data about office visits and hospitalizations, diagnoses, procedures, and medication and medical exam history. Similar records from other payers may also be accessed. This innovation equips health care professionals with more complete information at the time of service, helps improve coordination by avoiding duplication of tests and encourages preventive care.

For more information, visit www.fhin.net and click on the Florida Medicaid Health Information Network link.



Florida Discount Drug Card now available to all Florida residents

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010 at 8:28 pm | [BNO News](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA (BNO NEWS) – The Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income families, is now available to all Florida residents, Governor Charlie Crist announced on Tuesday.

“Florida remains committed to increasing access to affordable health care and finding innovative solutions to achieve this goal. The Florida Discount Drug Card has been proven to be a low-cost solution for families and seniors in need of affordable prescription drugs, and now we are rightly extending the savings to all Florida residents. I urge Floridians to sign up to begin receiving discounts on their prescription drugs,” said Governor Crist.

The Florida Discount Drug Card was introduced in 2007. It was originally intended for citizens of 60-64 years old without prescription drug coverage, or families without coverage and with an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify. These criteria will be applied for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.

All Florida residents now qualify for the discount. There are no waiting periods for obtaining the card as citizens can even download one from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon sign-up.

More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide. If the pharmacy’s price is lower than the card’s, the customer will pay the lowest one. So far, 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on December 20, 2007.

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Discount drug program expanded

Posted: April 7, 2010 - 6:18am

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in Florida.

Gov. Charlie Crist said Tuesday there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.



County's discount prescription cards show big savings

Posted: April 8, 2010 - 12:52am

As Gov. Charlie Crist expanded Florida's Discount Drug Card to all Floridians on Tuesday, St. Johns County's program, already open to all county residents, shows what a good deal these cards are.

The St. Johns County program is an affiliate of the National Association of Counties. Since June 2008, the cards have been used 13,608 times for an average savings of 23.63 percent per prescription, said Karen Pan, county spokeswoman. The latest monthly report shows that the cards were used 501 times in February, with an average savings of 24.26 percent. That's quite a savings, considering drug costs today.

The state program was originally launched in 2007 for low-income residents and seniors 60 to 64 years of age without other insurance for prescriptions. A spokeswoman for the state's program said the savings, before Tuesday's extension, was running at 30 percent across the board for brand and generic prescriptions. Participants, she said, are told the savings are generally around 20 percent.

The state card is already in use by 135,000 Floridians. There's no telling how many more cards went into effect Tuesday night and Wednesday. We appreciate Crist's extension of the benefit to all residents.

There is no charge for either card, but only one discount card can be used at a time, and neither can be used in addition to an insurance drug card. Consumers should determine which discount drug card is best at the time of use. Savings on prescriptions vary by prescription and by companies.

Years ago, some businesses in the United States offered their employees market basket boosters to help offset increases in the cost of groceries. Today's prescription discount cards have that kind of feel to them.

The cards are a boost to us in these tough economic times. Any savings is money back in our pockets for another need. Anyone who is still paying retail for prescription drugs when they can use one of these two options should rethink their spending plans.

Check out the state and county cards today. Savings on prescription drugs are discounts worth getting.

For more information:

The St. Johns County Prescription Discount Card information is at www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Cards. The cards can be used at some 60,000 pharmacies nationwide. The cards can also be used for prescription pet medications. There is no signup fee. The county's card is available at public libraries, Council on Aging sites, tax collector offices, health department locations, veterans services, the county commission office and Flagler Community Pharmacy. Addresses are listed at www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Cards/locations.aspx. For more information, call toll-free (877) 321-2652 or go to www.caremark.com/naco.

The Florida Discount Drug Card Program is open to all Florida residents. There is no signup fee other than a \$1.50 activation fee if the applicant desires a physical card. Otherwise, enrollment online is free at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by telephone at (866) 341-8894 (TTY users may call (866) 763-9630). The cards may be used at some 60,000 locations nationwide. Prescription pet medications qualify for a discount, too.



Official Florida Discount Drug Card Program

Saving on prescription drugs in Florida has never been easier. The Florida Discount Drug Card is now available to all Florida residents without restriction and is accepted at over 60,000 pharmacies nationwide. Florida residents who qualify based on age or income status are eligible to receive additional savings. Signing up is simple and activation is instant.

If you are a Florida resident and would like to participate, click here <http://www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com/> to get started.

Enroll by Telephone: 1-866-341-8894 or TTY Users may call: 1-866-763-9630



SHINE Program to Help More Elders with Insurance Options Funds will boost free information and counseling to Medicare beneficiaries. **Reporter:** Florida Department of Elder Affairs **Email Address:** news@wctv.tv

TALLAHASSEE – Florida’s SHINE program, which plays an essential role in helping seniors make informed choices about their health care options, today announced that it will receive a 16 percent jump in federal funding, enabling it to provide assistance to even more Florida elders. SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

As the official state health insurance program, SHINE – which stands for Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders – will receive an addition \$374,000 to provide free, unbiased counseling to Florida seniors regarding their insurance options. Florida has the nation’s highest concentration of elder residents, and SHINE is the first point of contact for many seniors exploring their Medicare and other insurance options.

SHINE is a state-based program that assists Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers with a wide variety of Medicare and health insurance topics. The SHINE program offers counseling and information through a network of more than 400 dedicated volunteers and 300-plus community partners. In the 2008-2009 state fiscal year, SHINE assisted some 505,700 clients across the state through either one-on-one counseling, educational presentations to community groups, or health and senior fairs.

“SHINE is a lifeline for many seniors who simply don’t know where to turn when trying to choose among complex and confusing health care options,” said Elder Affairs Secretary E. Douglas Beach. “With these additional funds, SHINE counselors will be able to help even more Florida seniors get information that can make all the difference in the world.” The award represents the 18th year of funding for SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders), and the increased funding is a result of greater success in the program’s outreach efforts over the past year. With the additional funding, local SHINE offices will be able to conduct additional outreach activities to inform seniors about the helpful services offered by the program.

Last year, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided \$2,349,987 for SHINE operations. The program was just notified that for the grant year that began April 1, SHINE has been awarded \$2,724,005, a 15.9 percent increase.

CMS expects the state health insurance programs to increase their efforts to provide outreach and assistance to current and newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. Another key focus will be on reaching individuals who are most likely eligible for Medicare’s low-income subsidy and may be able to benefit from lower prescription drug costs, as well as beneficiaries with disabilities or from diverse racial and ethnic groups, particularly those individuals with limited English proficiency.

SHINE is committed to working with partners statewide to reach current and newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries who may qualify for programs that can help them lower their Medicare costs. For more information on Medicare Savings Programs, including the low-income subsidy program or state-sponsored health insurance or prescription discount options such as the Florida Discount Drug Card and the Cover Florida Health Care Access Program, Floridians can call the Department’s Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-800-963-5337 or visit www.FloridaSHINE.org.



Florida Discount Drug Card Available To All Residents

April 12, 2010

The Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income families and individuals beginning in December 2007, is now available to all Florida residents.

“Florida remains committed to increasing access to affordable health care and finding innovative solutions to achieve this goal,” said Governor Charlie Crist. “The Florida Discount Drug Card has been proven to be a low-cost solution for families and seniors in need of affordable prescription drugs, and now we are rightly extending the savings to all Florida residents. I urge Floridians to sign up to begin receiving discounts on their prescription drugs.”

All Florida residents now qualify: no age limit, no income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees and the card instantly activates. Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and have an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify. These participants are still eligible and can now receive additional savings when purchasing their prescription drugs with the card. For participants under age 60, qualifying annual incomes for the additional savings are as follows:

\$32,490 for an individual
\$43,710 for a family of two
\$66,150 for a family of four

Income limits for other family sizes are published at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com

Participants who qualify for additional savings will be able to download a temporary card directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site and will receive a physical card by mail for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is only added to the cost of the first prescription. The temporary downloaded card activates within three hours.



Requesting a Florida Discount Drug Card is easy, and there is no sign-up fee for the card. Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon sign-up. Participants have the option of requesting a physical card to be mailed directly to a home or office for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is assessed when purchasing the first prescription. Floridians can request a Florida Discount Drug Card by visiting www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 1-866-341-8894 or TTY 1-866-763-9630. Information on the Web site is available in English, Spanish and a Creole version will be available soon. Multilingual drug card service representatives are available by calling the toll-free number.

More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide. If the pharmacy's usual and customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price. Additionally, if the customer qualifies for any other prescription discounts, they will always pay the lowest price. If a consumer learns a pharmacy is not enrolled in the program, it can be enrolled on a temporary basis, so the consumer can immediately take advantage of the discount. A 24-hour pharmacy helpline is available to assist with pharmacy enrollment. Once the pharmacy has signed a contract, it can permanently join the program.

The Florida Discount Drug Card Web site provides an easy-to-use pharmacy locator tool, as well as a drug pricing index.

No tax dollars are used to make the Florida Discount Drug Card available. A public-private partnership with Envision Pharmaceutical Services (EPS) makes the discounts possible. EPS pharmacy benefits manager secures volume discounts on prescription drugs, passing savings onto consumers. Participating pharmacies must agree to the negotiated prices.

As of March 2010, prior to the expansion, Governor Charlie Crist announced that more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on December 20, 2007. With over 61,000 prescriptions filled, participants saved \$6 million in prescription-drug costs.



Discount Drug Cards now available for everyone

POSTED: April 14, 2010

Gov. Charlie Crist has announced that the Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income families and individuals beginning in December 2007, is now available to all Florida residents.

Florida residents who meet the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates. The governor praised the expansion of the successful market-based initiative to increase access to affordable health care coverage in Florida.

"Florida remains committed to increasing access to affordable health care and finding innovative solutions to achieve this goal," said Crist. "The Florida Discount Drug Card has been proven to be a low-cost solution for families and seniors in need of affordable prescription drugs, and now we are rightly extending the savings to all Florida residents. I urge Floridians to sign up to begin receiving discounts on their prescription drugs."

All Florida residents now qualify: no age limit, no income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees and the card instantly activates. Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and have an annual income of less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify.

These participants are still eligible and can now receive additional savings when purchasing their prescription drugs with the card. For participants under age 60, qualifying annual incomes for the additional savings are as follows:

\$32,490 for an individual

\$43,710 for a family of two

\$66,150 for a family of four

Income limits for other family sizes are available on the Web site,

www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com. Participants who qualify for additional savings will be able to download a temporary card directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site and will receive a physical card by mail for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is only added to the cost of the first prescription.

The temporary downloaded card activates within three hours.

LehighAcresCitizen.com



Requesting a Florida Discount Drug Card is easy, and there is no sign-up fee for the card. Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon sign-up. Participants have the option of requesting a physical card to be mailed directly to a home or office for a small, one-time \$1.50 activation fee which is assessed when purchasing the first prescription. Floridians can request a Florida Discount Drug Card by visiting www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or by calling 1-866-341-8894 or TTY 1-866-763-9630. Information on the Web site is available in English, Spanish and a Creole version will be available soon. Multilingual drug card service representatives are available by calling the toll-free number.

More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide. If the pharmacy's usual and customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Additionally, if the customer qualifies for any other prescription discounts, they will always pay the lowest price. If a consumer learns a pharmacy is not enrolled in the program, it can be enrolled on a temporary basis, so the consumer can immediately take advantage of the discount.

A 24-hour pharmacy helpline is available to assist with pharmacy enrollment. Once the pharmacy has signed a contract, it can permanently join the program. The Florida Discount Drug Card Web site provides an easy-to-use pharmacy locator tool, as well as a drug pricing index.

No tax dollars are used to make the Florida Discount Drug Card available. A public-private partnership with Envision Pharmaceutical Services makes the discounts possible. EPS pharmacy benefits manager secures volume discounts on prescription drugs, passing savings onto consumers. Participating pharmacies must agree to the negotiated prices.

As of March 2010, prior to the expansion, Crist announced that more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on December 20, 2007. With more than 61,000 prescriptions filled, participants saved \$6 million in prescription-drug costs.



Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Discount drug card available to all Orlando Business Journal

The Florida Discount Drug Card, initially offered to qualifying seniors or low-income individuals, is now available to all Florida residents.

Gov. Charlie Crist announced April 6 that Florida residents meeting the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates. More than 60,000 pharmacies are participating nationwide.

All Florida residents now qualify, with no age limit or income requirements. There are no waiting periods to receive the card, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no membership fees, and the card instantly activates.

Previously, to sign up for the program, participants had to be age 60 to 64 and without prescription drug coverage; or individuals, families and seniors under age 60, without prescription-drug coverage, and with an annual income of less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

As of March 2010, prior to the expansion, more than 135,000 Floridians had signed up for the Florida Discount Drug Card since its launch on Dec. 20, 2007.

Printable cards can be downloaded for free directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card Web site upon signup at www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com.



Letters to the Editor

Notes from the Capitol

POSTED: April 14, 2010

To the editor:

About two years ago, we launched the Florida Discount Drug Card, initially designed to help those who are struggling with prescription costs. We offered help to working individuals and families with annual incomes less than 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, and those ages 60 to 64.

This week I was proud to announce that we are extending this cost-saving program to all Florida residents. There are no age limits, income requirements, waiting periods, pre-existing condition restrictions or membership fees.

This is another exciting milestone in the ongoing quest to extend affordable health care access to all Floridians. With more than 60,000 pharmacies nationwide participating in the program, Floridians will save on their prescription drugs, even while traveling outside the state. Now, more individuals and families can find real relief for their out-of-pocket prescription-drug expenses.

I want to remind everyone that it is easier than ever to sign up for the Florida Discount Drug Card. Just go to the Web site www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com, where you can request a card, printable or plastic. Or sign up over the phone by calling 1-866-341-8894.

Charlie Crist

Florida Governor
Tallahassee



Discount Drug Card Now Available To All Floridians

Updated: 4/12/2010 5:55:42 AM EDT

by Alan McBride

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. Gov. Charlie Crist says the Florida Discount Drug Card is now available to all residents of the state.

The card was introduced Dec. 20, 2007. At that time, it was limited to Floridians between the ages of 60-64 who had no prescription drug coverage, or individuals, families, and seniors under age 60 who had no prescription drug coverage and an annual income of less than 300 percent of the federal poverty wage.

Crist says the card will be available to all Floridians, without regard to age or income.

According to the guidelines that govern the discount drug card, there are no restrictions on pre-existing conditions, no membership fees, and no waiting periods.

Officials said the card offers discounts on "virtually every brand and generic drug," though the discounts can vary.

According to the website for the [discount drug card](#), more than 60,000 pharmacies are participating in the program.

The site provides guidelines as well as FAQs for people who are not sure if they can qualify for the program.

Officials caution that Floridians on Medicaid are not eligible, since that program provides comprehensive coverage of prescription and some over-the-counter medicines.

The discount card takes effect immediately after a person signs up for it.



Local Discount drug program expanded in Florida

The Associated Press

2010-04-06 21:28:04.0

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A discount drug card program available to seniors and low-income families is being expanded in [Florida](#).

[Gov. Charlie Crist](#) said Tuesday there are no longer any age limit or income requirements to be eligible for the program, which has enlisted more than 135,000 Floridians since its inception in December 2007. There are, however, some qualifying limits for people under 60.

If the pharmacy's customary price is lower than the Florida Discount Drug price, the customer will pay the lower price.

Florida residents who met the original qualifying criteria are eligible for additional savings in the form of manufacturer rebates.

On the Net: <http://www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com>

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■ Tallahassee Weekend April 9-11, 2010

Posted: 04/02/2010

Edited: 04/09/2010

Message

Living Green Tip-Free Community Shred Event.

April 10, 9 a.m. - Noon

Free, please limit material to five boxes. Have your papers shredded and securely disposed of.

Tallahassee Police Department, 234 East 7th Avenue

(850) 309-1996 or e-mail tallahassee@shredit.com/tallahassee

Announcements:

This week, Governor Crist announced that the Florida Discount Drug Card program was expanded so all Florida residents can use it. Visit <http://www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com/> for more information and to see if this program could save you money on prescription medications.

The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation has started a new blog page. Check the blog frequently for kid-friendly ideas like healthy snacks or fun weekend activities. <http://flhealthykids.wordpress.com/>

Reminder: If you haven't completed your census form yet, do so and mail it back as soon as possible!



Home

HEALTHCARE

Florida Resources

Florida Health Finder Florida Agency for Health Care Administration - compare hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, health plans, nursing homes, and prescription drugs. Find health care facilities and information on health insurance; learn about medical conditions and procedures, medical care resources, and more.

Florida Discount Drug Card Program The Florida Discount Drug Card is designed to lower the cost of prescriptions for Florida residents age 60 and older without prescription drug coverage, who fall into the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage gap or have an annual family income of less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Cover Florida For access to affordable health care, Cover Florida gives uninsured Floridians the opportunity to take charge of their own preventive health care.

Florida Healthy Kids A public/private organization providing quality health insurance to Florida's children.

Florida KidCare Florida KidCare is the state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19.

Florida WIC Good Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children. WIC is a federally funded nutrition program for women, infants, and children. WIC provides, at no cost, healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for health care.

Health Departments by County Florida Department of Health - look up contact information for health departments by county.

Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders State of Florida SHINE provides educational materials and free, unbiased insurance counseling to Florida elders, caregivers and family members.

Federal Resources

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

BenefitsCheckUp Developed and maintained by The National Council on Aging, BenefitsCheckUp is a comprehensive web-based service to screen for benefits programs for seniors with limited income and resources.

Women's Health U.S. Department of Health and Human Services source for women's health information

Girl's Health US Department of Health and Human Services source for girl's health information

Medline Plus Men's Health MedlinePlus brings together authoritative information from NLM, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations.

Site for parents, kids and teens - Nemours Foundation offers information about health, behavior, and development from before birth through the teen years.

Medline Plus - Infant and Toddler Health MedlinePlus brings together authoritative information from NLM, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other government agencies and health-related organizations.

Social Security Online The official web site of the U.S. Social Security Administration

More Healthcare Resources



04/16/2010

Front & Center - April 16, 2010

Contact: [Lauren Stewart](#)
Center for Best Practices

State News

Florida Broadens Discount Drug Program

By: Brian O'Donnell

Governor Charlie Crist has [recently expanded](#) the Florida Discount Drug Card program. The program, which was originally available to only certain individuals without prescription drug coverage, is now available to all Floridians. The program allows individuals to visit one of over 60,000 pharmacies that participate in the program and receive discounts on prescription medications. Enrollment is free, and membership cards can be downloaded directly from the Florida Discount Drug Card [Web site](#).

The program requires no state funding to operate. Rather, the state ensures lower prices for enrollees by partnering with a private pharmacy benefits management company. The company purchases large quantities of prescription drugs, secures volume discounts and passes the savings onto consumers. Pharmacies that participate in the program must agree to the lower, negotiated prices.

(Contact: [Molly Voris](#))