

Free discount card offers prescription savings

By **JULIAN AGUILAR**
LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Webb County residents can see a sizable saving on their prescription medications, regardless of their insurance coverage, age or income.

The thanks go to a prescription discount card unveiled at the Webb County Administration building Wednesday.

Because of the county's membership in the National Association of Counties, residents can now receive the free card, which will save them an average of 20 percent on their medications at

more than 59,000 pharmacies worldwide.

"Everyone in Webb County is now eligible," Commissioner Jerry Garza announced. "This is absolutely free to all residents of Webb County. There is no application fee, no income requirement, age or citizenship requirement."

Prescription cards can be picked up at several places around town including the Laredo Medical Center, Border Region MHMR, Texas Workforce Center, South Texas Food Bank, Laredo Independent School District communications office and the Webb County Indigent Services Department.

"This is absolutely free to all residents of Webb County"

COMMISSIONER JERRY GARZA

Webb County has 54,000 cards to distribute and will request more once it runs out.

The program was facilitated through an effort between Garza and Pct. 1 Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa. Sciaraffa said his precinct has the highest number of county residents without health insurance.

Garza added that H-E-B and Wal-Mart are two local pharmacies, honoring the card.

Garza added that a company called Caremark is a partner with the National Association of Counties. The collaboration allows counties to offer the card at no cost.

A distributed fact sheet states

that Caremark negotiates with pharmacies to offer discounts. Pharmacies participate because the program draws customers, it states. Caremark receives a fee from each transaction.

Prescription pet medications can also be obtained at a discount price.

Garza said that the county is in the process of adding a link to the National Association of Counties Web site on Webb County's Web page so that residents can obtain a more detailed breakdown of what medications are available through the program and get price estimates for medications.

A list of participating pharmacies in Webb County can be found by going to www.naco.org, or by calling (877) 321-2652. An estimated price for medications can also be obtained by calling the phone number.

The card has a safety feature that alerts a pharmacist if a cardholder has purchased medications that may conflict with any others obtained with the card, a county fact sheet states. A family can use one card. Once the card is obtained, it is immediately ready for use.

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