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Prescription drug discount cards saved consumers \$45K in first year *Arapahoe County citizens enjoy reduced price on drugs not covered by insurance*

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County citizens have saved thousands of dollars on prescription drugs in the past year through a discount drug card program launched by the County in July 2008 and sponsored by the National Association of Counties.

Cardholders and their family members, regardless of age or income, may use the card on retail-priced drugs that are not covered by insurance, such as Medicaid, Medicare, private or employer-sponsored health plans. The cards are accepted at 90 percent of the county's pharmacies. A national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Arapahoe County Government is proud to offer the drug discount program at no cost to citizens, to help them afford the high costs of prescription drugs that do not fall under health insurance," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "The program is easy to access— just pick up a card at one of many participating locations and present it to your local pharmacist at check-out to see if a discount can be applied. There is no enrollment, no fee and no limit to how many times the cards can be used."

Between the program launch in July 2008 and June 2009, the discount drug cards have been presented at pharmacies 2,857 times by County residents. In cases where the NACo card could offer the lowest price, consumers received an average discount of \$9.49 on each drug purchase. That represents an average savings of 19.4 percent off the retail price of prescribed drugs and a total savings to County citizens of \$45,340.75. Use of the prescription drug discount cards increased steadily each month.

The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc., which negotiates the discounts directly with participating pharmacies. If a pharmacy prices a particular medication lower than the discount rate available with the NACo card, the consumer will receive the lower price.

Neither NACo nor the participating counties receive any revenue from the program. There also is no cost to the county, county taxpayers or consumers to participate.

Cards are available at various Arapahoe County buildings, and the cities of Aurora, Centennial, Deer Trail, Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan, as well as the Aurora Library District. For specific locations, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us or call 303-738-8040. County residents also can call 1-877-321-2652 toll free or visit www.caremark.com/naco for assistance with the program.

If your business or agency would like to help by making the cards available to the public at your location, please call 303-738-8040 and a supply will be mailed to you.

About NACO:

The National Association of Counties is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

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To download photos, click on the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Prescription%20Drug%20Card/>

Photo caption:

Dyer_Discount Card: Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer holds a discount card that provides residents with big savings off the retail price of prescription drugs.

PrescriptionDiscountCards: Arapahoe County prescription drug discount cards are available to any citizen and offer a reduced price on drugs not covered by insurance.