

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 4, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 66: THE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAMS

This is in response to an inquiry regarding the Prescription Discount Card programs provided by the National Association of Counties (NACO) and FamilyWize which have been compared and the results are included in the attached document. The programs are very comparable with few differences in their programmatic features and benefit to the consumer. The most significant difference is cost. In order to participate in the NACO program, Alexandria would have to join NACO at a cost of \$2,521 annually. (Note that membership includes additional benefits for elected officials and City staff such as NACO publications, discounts to conferences, etc.)

Representatives from each program were contacted. A few participating Virginia localities were also contacted. Each locality was pleased with their respective programs and the results for their consumers. It appears from the research of the programs that they are equally beneficial and available to their customers. We recommend initiating prescription cards from the FamilyWize program due to the cost savings.

Attachment: Comparison of NACO and FamilyWize Prescription Programs

Comparison of NACO And FamilyWize Prescription Programs

	National Association of Counties (NACO)	FamilyWize
Cost to City to participate	No cost, <u>IF</u> already a NACO member. Alexandria is not currently a member. Annual membership cost for Alexandria would be \$2,521 . (Richmond is the only Virginia <u>city</u> currently registered. All the rest of the member localities are <u>counties</u> .)	No cost. No membership fee. (United Way is often the leading agency in localities, but public entities are welcome.)
Average Savings	20 – 30%	39.1%
Participating Pharmacies in Alexandria (almost all pharmacies used for both)	22 pharmacies	23 pharmacies
Customer Service	Available to staff and pharmacies by email or phone.	Available to staff and pharmacies by email or phone.
Marketing	Participating locality/agency is responsible for marketing with the assistance of NACO who would provide the Rx Cards, marketing letters and tips. Cards can be available in about 8 weeks from the time they are ordered. Marketing materials must be approved through NACO prior to production. City logo can be used on materials.	Participating locality/agency is responsible for marketing with the assistance of FamilyWize. They would issue Rx Cards, marketing letters and tips and a template that can be published in City newsletters and publications and immediately available for use by recipients. City logo may be used on materials.
Member and Success information	www.naco.org . The website includes a listing of NACO members, along with other benefits of NACO membership, including discounts for City staff and elected officials at conferences, etc. It does <u>not</u> include specific statistical information about of the savings localities have experienced. Specific info is reserved for members only. Information was available through NACO staff when contacted.	www.familywize.com The website provides information about all member localities, the participating pharmacies in each locality, % of savings for each locality, etc.