

**Program:** Prescription Assistance Service/Rx for Oklahoma

**Initial Posting:** Jul 17, 2005

**Agency:** [Oklahoma Department of Commerce](#)

**Last Revised:** Jan 25, 2010

## Purpose

Five CAAs in Oklahoma operate the Prescription Assistance Service program to help eligible individuals obtain free or discounted prescription medications directly from the manufacturer.

## Description



Five CAAs in Oklahoma serve as the regional contractors for the [Rx for Oklahoma Program](#) that facilitates access to prescription drugs for citizens who have no or inadequate health insurance or other resources for the purchase of medically necessary prescription drugs. This statewide initiative was created through passage of the [Rx for Oklahoma Act](#) by the Oklahoma state legislature in May 2005. A \$1.0 million appropriation was also passed to support (a) state administration of the [Rx for Oklahoma Program](#) - [Rx for Oklahoma Brochure](#), (b) a toll-free number for assistance, and (c) funding of organizations selected to operate the program - [Rx for Oklahoma press release](#). An [Oklahoma Rx Discount Card](#) is also available to further help all Oklahomans offset the costs of prescription drugs.

The CAAs administering Rx for Oklahoma are:

- Region One - [Community Development Support Association](#)
- Region Two - [Great Plains Improvement Foundation](#)
- Region Three - [Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency](#)
- Region Four - [KiBois Community Action Foundation](#)
- Region Five - [Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties](#)

Oklahoma's prescription assistance initiative was created through the work of the [Oklahoma Oklahoma Pharmacy Connection Council \(PPC\)](#) that was established by the state legislature in 2002. PPC broadcast an Information Bulletin to increase awareness of prescription assistance services.

A statewide conference ("Unlocking the Medicine Cabinet: Access for Oklahomans") with 160 persons in attendance was held in April 2005 to promote broad involvement and support for RxOklahoma. A "How-To" presentation was given by on [Accessing Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance Programs](#). Support for passage of state legislation

involved groups such as Area Agencies on Aging and others.

[Various prescription assistance programs](#) are available through the efforts of pharmaceutical companies such as:

- [Together RxAccess](#) issues a Together RxAccess™ Card to help qualified individuals save approximately 25%-40% and sometimes more on [over 300 brand-name prescription drugs and other prescription products](#), as well as a wide range of generic drugs. Medications are mailed directly either to the patient or their physician. Refills are provided by making a telephone request. Enrollment is free and can be handled through completion of a [mail-in](#) or an [on-line form](#). The Together RxAccess™ Card may be used for savings at any [participating pharmacy](#). Eligibility is based on meeting all of the following criteria:

- Not eligible for Medicare
- No prescription drug coverage (public or private)
- Household income not greater than \$30,000 for a single person \$40,000 for a family of 2 \$50,000 for a family of 3 \$60,000 for a family of 4 \$70,000 for a family of 5
- Legal resident of the United States or Puerto Rico

- [Partnership for Prescription Assistance \(PPA\)](#) helps qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them. [On-line medication selection](#) and PPA application features are provided.

- [Rx Outreach](#) provides qualified low-income individuals and families with access to generic versions of brand name medications. A patient information packet describing options for prescription assistance is available.

- [RxAssist](#) patient and medication software is can be purchased at minimal cost. The software connects to the [www.rxassist.org](http://www.rxassist.org) web site. New updates on forms, drugs and companies are automatically done weekly and software modifications occur at least every year. Full support is included at no additional charge.

- [Rx Hope](#) offers [Patient Assistance Program information](#), as well as [on-line applications for particular drugs](#).

- [NeedyMeds](#) provides information about patient assistance programs that provide no cost prescription medications to eligible participants. Listings of [brand name](#) and [generic drugs](#) are available.



[Ongoing involvement in events](#) helps to generate interest and support for Rx for

Oklahoma. Examples of media coverage that have also helped promote awareness of the program include:

- [Rx For Oklahoma Receives Governor's Commendation Of Excellence Award](#)
- [Rx for Oklahoma Receives the Oklahoma Public Health Association's Special Business Award for Excellence in Public Health](#)
- [Prescription Cards Working For Oklahomans](#)

## Outcomes

Rx for Oklahoma received an array of awards in FY'08:

- Excellence in Public Health awarded by Oklahoma Public Health Association
- Governor's Commendation of Excellence awarded by Office of Personnel Management
- Champion of Public Health Recognition awarded by Blue Cross Blue Shield
- International Association of Business Communicators awarded
  - Bronze Quill – Award of Excellence
  - Silver Quill – Award of Merit

Various [Success Stories](#) reflect the positive benefits of the program.

The [Rx for Oklahoma FY'08 Annual Report](#) presents various outcomes including:

- Number of clients that received Prescription Assistance through Rx for Oklahoma; July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
  - Over 3,700 clients were assisted with applying for prescription assistance offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers
  - 85% (uninsured) - 15% (under-insured)
- Number of prescriptions that were filled as a result of the application assistance provided by Rx for Oklahoma Contractor
  - Over 13,7700 prescriptions were provided to clients as a result of the application assistance provided by Rx for Oklahoma Contractors
  - Approximately 4 prescriptions per client per month
- Estimated savings of the prescriptions provided to clients assisted through Rx for Oklahoma?

- The estimated savings for prescriptions provided to clients as a result of the application assistance provided by Rx for Oklahoma Contractors; totals \$6.6 million
- Estimated savings for each prescription \$478
- Estimated saving for each client \$1,772
- Impact of the Rx for Oklahoma Prescription Drug Program for the participating clients in Oklahoma
  - Clients have better medication dosage compliance
  - Clients utilize the savings to meet other essential needs
  - Clients have reduced visits to emergency rooms and physicians, as a result of improved health
  - Family members of clients experience reduced financial stress
- Benefit to Oklahoma Communities
  - Rx for Oklahoma provides a service that increases the quality of life for the clients and their families
- Rx for Oklahoma Partnerships in Prescription Assistance Outcomes
  - 570 Clients were enrolled by Rx for Oklahoma Staff into the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Funded, OklahomaRx Discount Card Program
  - 451 Individuals received Medicare and Part D counseling from Rx for OK Staff that are Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Counselors and 69 were assisted with Medicare enrollment
  - 1,422 Individuals received counseling about Medicare and Medicaid Fraud activity that remains prevalent in our senior communities

## Contact

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