

**Comparison of Drug Discount Card Programs Available to Ohioans, March 2005**  
**Jointly developed by Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services and Aging**

Program	Ohio's Best RX	Golden Buckeye Prescription Drug Savings Program	Medicare Discount Drug Cards
Responsible Agency	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	Ohio Department of Aging	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Federal)
<b>Program Summary</b>	A statewide drug discount card program for Ohioans over age 60 or any age with income below 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A drug discount card savings program and optional enrollment for eligible individuals in multiple manufacturers' Special Assistance Programs.</li> <li>- Operates through Ohio's Golden Buckeye Program.</li> </ul> <p>ALSO: a second Golden Buckeye Card is a Medicare-approved drug discount card (see next column for information)</p>	<p>Medicare beneficiaries (except those also enrolled in Medicaid) will have a choice of Medicare-approved drug discount cards to be effective June 2004 until January 2006 when the Medicare prescription insurance benefit is implemented.</p> <p>Over 40 options in Ohio, including a Golden Buckeye card.</p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ohio Resident</li> <li>- Age 60 and over with no third party insurance or government sponsored health insurance OR</li> <li>- Annual income less than \$23,940 (single), \$32,100 (couple), or more based on family size and with no third party or government sponsored health insurance that covers prescription drugs currently or during the 4 months preceding application for the program</li> <li>- Applicant must attest that income and other eligibility requirements are met</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ohio Resident</li> <li>- Age 60 and older OR</li> <li>- Age 19-59 with a Medicare-qualified disability</li> <li>- No re-enrollment – card issued for life</li> <li>- Cards sent automatically to drivers who turn age 60.</li> <li>- Apply for card at most libraries or senior centers</li> <li>- Special Assistance Programs require separate enrollment with eligibility limited to Medicare-qualified individuals who have no prescription insurance coverage and have annual incomes below \$28,000 (single) or \$40,000 (couple)</li> <li>- Income information is self-declared for Special Assistance Programs</li> </ul>	<p>The discount card program will be available to <u>ALL Medicare beneficiaries</u> (except those also enrolled in Medicaid).</p>

**Comparison of Drug Discount Card Programs Available to Ohioans, March 2005**  
**Jointly developed by Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services and Aging**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Ohio's Best RX</b>	<b>Golden Buckeye Prescription Drug Savings Program</b>	<b>Medicare Discount Drug Cards</b>
<b>Responsible Agency</b>	<b>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services</b>	<b>Ohio Department of Aging</b>	<b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Federal)</b>
<b>Availability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation began January 2005</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Golden Buckeye: active October 2003</li> <li>Medicare Golden Buckeye: Effective June 1, 2004 (see next column)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discount cards effective June 2004</li> <li>- Discount card program will end January 2006 when Medicare benefit implemented.</li> <li>- Statewide availability (Medicare managed care enrollees will have access to cards available from their health plans)</li> </ul>
<b>Benefit Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No enrollment charge</li> <li>- Immediate access to discounts upon receipt of the card</li> <li>- Continuous open enrollment</li> <li>- Annual renewals based an affirmation of continuing eligibility</li> <li>- Open formulary (based on drugs covered by state employee and retiree health plans)</li> <li>- Optional mail order</li> <li>- Drug prices based on the average weighted negotiated prices of state employee and retiree health benefit plans</li> <li>- Drug rebates based on either average weighted negotiated rebates of the state employee and retiree health plans or on any manufacturer -offered rebates that are equal to or greater than the average weighted rebate</li> <li>- "Any willing pharmacy" may participate</li> <li>- Participants will receive price and savings information</li> <li>- No appeal process granted to program participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No charge to participate in Golden Buckeye Drug Savings Program</li> <li>- Immediate access to savings upon application</li> <li>- Continuous open enrollment</li> <li>- No formulary or restriction on selection of drugs, although discounts are higher for those drugs that are "preferred." (i.e. where manufacturer rebates have been negotiated.)</li> <li>- Optional home delivery (mail order)</li> <li>- Drug prices are negotiated statewide with pharmacies</li> <li>- Any willing Pharmacy</li> <li>- Participants have access to price and savings information on web or through customer service representatives</li> <li>- Formal grievance or appeal procedures exist for cardholders and pharmacies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enrollment fee of up to \$30 enrollment year</li> <li>- Immediate access to discounts upon receipt of the card</li> <li>- \$20 enrollment fee for the Medicare-approved Golden Buckeye Discount card</li> <li>- Low-income beneficiaries (annual income up to \$12,569 for a single person or \$16,862 for a couple) pay no enrollment fee and receive \$600 credit</li> <li>- Continuous open enrollment but once enrolled can only change annually</li> <li>- Any willing pharmacy</li> <li>- Participants will have access to price and savings information</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formulary</li> <li>- Home delivery</li> <li>- Drug prices</li> <li>- Drug rebates</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-left: 150px;"> <p>Specific requirements for these will be determined by individual card sponsor's requirements.</p> </div>
<b>Customer Service Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website with pricing <a href="http://www.ohiobestrx.org">www.ohiobestrx.org</a></li> <li>- Toll-free customer service line: 1-866-923-7879 (1-866-9BESTRX)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- website with pricing at <a href="http://www.GoldenBuckeye.com">www.GoldenBuckeye.com</a></li> <li>- Toll-free customer service line 1-866-301-6446</li> </ul>	<p>For information on all options: <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">www.medicare.gov</a></p> <p>Or call 1-800-MEDICARE</p> <p>For Medicare-approved Golden Buckeye: <a href="http://www.GoldenBuckeye.com">www.GoldenBuckeye.com</a> or 1-866-301-6446</p>