

Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program

KPAP: THE SMALL PROGRAM WITH A BIG IMPACT



SPOTLIGHT: Prescription Drug Affordability

SOLUTION: Enable and expand community-based efforts to enroll eligible Kentuckians in prescription assistance programs

LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

- Introduced by Jimmie Lee, Kentucky Representative and chair of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee
- Cabinet for Health and Family Services annual line item of \$600K
- Bipartisan support from both chambers and every Kentucky governor since the program launched in 2009

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- Expand local capacity without duplicating efforts
- Partner with individuals and organizations already active in underserved communities, including county health departments, hospitals, food pantries and faith-based organizations

HOW IT WORKS

- KPAP supports a statewide toll-free hotline and licenses software that identifies free or reduced cost prescription programs offered by manufacturers, retailers and other sponsors
- Callers are connected with a local KPAP volunteer advocate
- KPAP's trained advocates serve as navigators, helping Kentuckians enroll in prescription assistance and find other needed support
- The service is free to patients
- Read all about KPAP at:
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dpqi/hcab/Pages/kpap.aspx>

ANNUAL SUCCESS METRICS

\$43 million
in free or reduced
cost prescriptions

70x
value on the
state's investment

3700 people
assisted

200
KPAP trained
advocates serving
all 120 counties



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LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

When Kentucky Representative Jimmie Lee's constituents said they couldn't afford their prescriptions, he knew he had to do something about it. As Chair of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, he also knew the state budget was tight. Lee found the answer he was looking for at HEART USA, a volunteer-run program helping local residents access free and reduced cost medicines provided by manufacturers, retailers, foundations, non-profits and other sponsors.

In 2009, Lee helped expand the model statewide launching the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP). Today KPAP is **helping more than 3,700 Kentuckians access \$43 million in free and reduced cost medications** in a single year. KPAP's efficient deployment of its annual \$600K appropriation could make it the only state program across the nation to deliver a **70-times return on investment**. Thanks to Lee, Kentucky is prudently stewarding its fiscal resources while helping uninsured and underinsured residents afford prescriptions to manage their diabetes, heart disease and other health conditions.

STATE & LOCAL COLLABORATION

KPAP operates out of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, helping community-based advocates and organizations in all 120 counties **expand their capacity without duplicating efforts**. The program is currently staffed by 2 FTEs and a contractor. Three community consultants are contracted through KPAP partner organizations to serve as trainers and program liaisons for 200 community-based advocates. KPAP provides ongoing support for partner sites through weekly virtual office hours, monthly software training, and individual training and troubleshooting as needed.

HOW IT WORKS

Kentuckians needing help with prescription costs can call **800-633-8100**, a statewide toll-free hotline. Callers are connected with a local KPAP-trained advocate who serves as their **prescription assistance program navigator**. The advocate will meet in-person or virtually with the caller to understand their assistance needs and enter details into Drug Assistant software licensed to KPAP. The software identifies assistance programs, copay cards and other resources to reduce prescription costs. It **streamlines enrollment** in multiple prescription assistance programs, and works in tandem with the state's health coverage system for individuals who are eligible but not yet enrolled in other state assistance programs like Medicaid or CHIP.

FUTURE EXPANSION

Public awareness is one of the biggest challenges to scaling the program. KPAP leadership commits the lion's share of funding to delivering services so there isn't much left over for marketing and advertising. Future plans are to secure resources needed to increase awareness of this amazing state program and fund capacity building grants or awards for KPAP's community-based partners.

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