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On Your Side: Purchasing card program can save your tax dollars

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AUGUSTA -- When MCG employees make a **purchase** using the Georgia purchasing card, it moves across p-card program coordinator Lillian Samundsen's desk.

"We spend about 12 million a year using the card," she said.

Because 25 percent of their budget comes from state dollars, you **save money** when they are more efficient.

"We're not using taxpayer dollars, with the buyers putting it in the system," added Samundsen.

They say that means their time is spent in more valuable ways.

State program leaders have traveled across Georgia to expand the program. Today they visited Augusta, hoping to attract area governments to the program.

"If you're a responsible government and focused on helping reduce costs and increase services, because that's money that can be redirected to constituent services, it makes sense," said Rodney Jenkins, with the State Department of Administrative Services.

The program is based on state contracts. So far, there are more than 50 percent **savings** on government purchases of office supplies and vehicle parts. There's also a 17 percent savings on police vehicles. Jenkins says other contracts are being worked out.

Napa will provide what they call high-quality parts to those who participate.

"We can reduce service, frequency on state vehicles, and also provide a competitive price while doing so," said NAPA account manager Josh Peters.

The state hopes to attract all local governments to take advantage.

"We've done all the leg work for the local community, so it won't cost them any money for a procurement," added Jenkins. "We're doing that."