

2015-16 Edition

Resources for Follow-Up Eye Treatment

This resource guide has been developed in order to provide information to individuals, health departments, social workers and school nurses regarding resources available to assist in securing eye care for those in financial need throughout our state.



Prevent Blindness North Carolina is a non-profit voluntary health agency dedicated to preventing blindness, preserving and restoring sight and promoting good vision for all.

Medicaid (Health Check)

- Income: Up to 185% of Poverty Level
 - Covers: Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services
 - Ages: All Health Check (0-5 years)
 - Eligibility: NC resident, US citizen or qualified immigrant
 - Information: Care Line 800.662.7030
EDS 800.688.6696
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma
Click: Consumer Links or Programs
- Applications can be requested by phone but must be filed with the Department of Social Services in the county of residence.
 - Medicaid is funded by the federal government and the state of North Carolina. It provides free health insurance to children whose families cannot pay for private insurance.

Medicare

- Income Level: All
 - Ages: 65 and Older
 - Information: Care Line 800.633.4227 www.medicare.gov
- Medicare does not cover routine eye exams.
 - Annual eye exams are covered for diabetic retinopathy.
 - Individuals with diabetes, family history of glaucoma, African-Americans over 50, or Hispanics over 65, are eligible for an annual glaucoma screening.
 - Cataract surgery is covered at 80% of the Medicare-approved amount after yearly deductible. Patients who have had cataract surgery with intraocular lens may receive assistance in paying for cataract glasses, contact lenses or intraocular lenses based on medical necessity.

Children's Health Insurance Plan (Health Choice)

- Income: Up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level and ineligible for Medicaid
- Covers: Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval
- Ages: Birth to 19 years
- Information: 800.367.2229—Healthy Start
800.662.7030—Children's Health Insurance
www.nchealthystart.org
Click: Child Health Insurance
- North Carolina Health Choice is a program for children funded by the federal government and the state of North Carolina. This program provides low-cost insurance to children whose families cannot pay for private insurance and who do not qualify for Medicaid.
- English and Spanish applications are available online or at county Health Departments and DSS offices.
- Proof of income and child's age are required.
- The same application is used for Medicaid (Health Check) and NC Health Choice programs. Determination of eligibility will be made by the Department of Social Services in the county of residence.
- This program is administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Children will be enrolled on a first come-first served basis.
- Children must have valid Social Security numbers.

Prevent Blindness North Carolina

In collaboration with local and national partners, Prevent Blindness North Carolina administers four programs offering financial resources to applicants who qualify under the specific guidelines of each program.

To apply for youth resources an individual must register as a Referring Agent and then the applications can be filled out online. Program details can be accessed via the PBNC website:

<http://nc.preventblindness.org/financial-resources>

The application will be reviewed to determine eligibility.
Prevent Blindness will select the most beneficial program available.

Further information regarding these programs is available by calling 919.755.5044 or 800.543.7839.

An overview of each program follows:

Vision Service Plan (VSP) Sight for Students

- Income: Up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level with no Medicaid, Health Choice or vision coverage
- Covers: Exams and glasses, if prescribed; no contact lenses
- Eligibility: Child must be a US citizen with a SS# or parent must be a US citizen with a SS#.
Individual taxpayer ID numbers (ITIN) are not acceptable
- Ages: Child must be 19 years or younger and still enrolled in school

- Financial eligibility is self-declared by parent.
- Children are eligible to use one voucher within a 12-month period.
- No cost to family unless cosmetic option is purchased.
- Services must be provided by a VSP participating provider.
- A list of providers is available online at www.sightforstudents.org
- Only VSP Choice Network providers offering Altair frames can provide services to gift certificate recipients

VSP Mobile Eyes Program for Adults

- Income: Family income is not more than 200% of Federal Poverty Level with no Medicaid, Medicare or other vision cover-age
 - Covers: Exams and glasses (not contacts), if prescribed from a VSP Choice Network participating doctor
 - Ages: Applicant is 18 years old or older
 - Eligibility: Available to PBNC Partner organizations
Applicant is a US citizen or legal immigrant with SS#. Tax ID numbers are not acceptable
- Applicant has not used the VSP Mobile Eye program during the past 12 months.
 - Services provided at no cost to families unless a cosmetic option or other extra is purchased.

VSP Eyeglasses Only

- Income: Family Income is no more than 200% of Federal Level with no Medicaid, Medicare or other vision coverage
 - Covers: Glasses Only (not contacts)
 - Ages: Applicant is 18 years or older
 - Eligibility: Available to PBNC Partner organizations
Applicant is US Citizen or legal immigrant with SS#. Tax ID's are not acceptable
- Must have a less than 1 year old prescription for eyeglasses
 - Applicant has not used the VSP Programs during the past 12 months

Donor Docs

- Income: Up to 250% of Federal Poverty Level with no Vision insurance or vision coverage under Medicaid, Health Choice or Medicare
 - Covers: Exams and possibly glasses, depending on donor
 - Ages: Children and adults from PBNC partner organizations
 - Eligibility: No SS# required
- Donor Docs is a voluntary group of NC optometrists and ophthalmologists who donate specific services.
 - Access to services of a Donor Doc is dependent upon the local providers and may not be available in all communities.
 - Financial eligibility is self-declared by parent or adult.
 - The match for services will be coordinated through the PBNC office.
 - Approved applicants will receive a notice of approval and doctor assignment via a letter notification from PBNC.

Healthy Eyes (OneSight)

- Income: Up to 200% of poverty level with no other eyeglass benefits accessible at the time
 - Covers: **Glasses only**—No eye exams
 - Ages: Children and adults from PBNC partner organizations
 - Eligibility: No SS# required
- Financial eligibility is self-declared.
 - Prescription must be less than 1 year old.
 - Youth are encouraged to get an annual eye exam and updated prescription before applying.
 - Vouchers available once every two years unless there is a change in the prescription or eyeglasses are damaged beyond repair.
 - No upgrades in frames or lenses will be permitted.
 - Children up to age 12 will receive polycarbonate lenses.
 - Once the recipient has been approved and received a referral card, an appointment must be made at one of the following provider locations: LensCrafters, Sears Optical, Target Optical, or corporate Pearle Vision.
 - It is the responsibility of the recipient to verify the provider is participating in the OneSight Program.

The following are additional community vision resources that are not affiliated with Prevent Blindness North Carolina.

North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children

- Income: No income requirements
- Covers: Eye exams OR Eyeglasses, **not** both once per calendar year
- Ages: All children enrolled in public school K-12, at least 30 days of the school year in order to receive services
- Eligibility: US citizenship is not required
- Information: 800.662.7924 or 919.832.3000 ext. 205
Contact: derevana.leach@ncae.org

- School staff must request assistance on behalf of the child. Parents are not to seek applications or contact the office.
- Applications can be accessed by school staff on the NCFPSC website at : ncfpssc.org. Click on "Programs" and the "Children's Fund" to retrieve, complete and submit the application.

North Carolina Lions Foundation , Inc.

- Covers: Exams and glasses and other items deemed medically necessary
- Ages: 6 and up
- Eligibility: Must be a NC resident for two years
- Information: 800.662.7401, 828.478.2135 or www.nclf.org

- North Carolina Lions Clubs have been active and generous with both their time and gifts throughout North Carolina.
 - Contact your local Lions Club regarding funding for an eye exam or eyeglasses. Resources will vary from club to club.

Vision USA

- Income: Below established guidelines based on house-hold size
- Covers: Comprehensive Eye Exams w/ Dilation
- Ages: All
- Eligibility: Must be a US Citizen or legal resident
- Information: 800.766.4466
<http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/>
- **Application must be submitted online at www.optometryscharity.org/vision-usa by a referral agency Eg. Social Worker or Health Department Representative**
- General eligibility requirements include:
 - No Medicare/Medicaid or other insurance to cover eye exam
 - Applicant has not had an eye exam within past 2 years.
 - Applicant has not used this program within past 2 years.
 - Proof of income is required for each applicant
 - Max of 4 applicants per household per year
- If an individual or family is eligible, they will be matched with a volunteer doctor who will provide a comprehensive eye exam at no charge. The doctors are donating their services; as a result resources may be limited in some areas.
- Eyewear may also be provided at no cost or for a small fee or donation in some states. Does not include exams for fitting of contact lenses.

LensCrafters

- Income: Case by Case,
- Covers: See Program Descriptions
- Ages: Children and Adults
- Information: Call your local LensCrafters location or www.onesight.org
1.888.935.4589 (One Sight)

Community Vision Care

- Once a month, participating LensCrafters retail stores in partnership with optometrists and ophthalmologists provide free or discounted eye exams and new glasses to those in need within their local communities.
- Contact your local LensCrafters to find out if the Community Vision Care program is available in your community

In-store Programs

- Please see page 7 for the process to be used in accessing assistance from the Healthy Eyes (OneSight) Program at LensCrafters through application to Prevent Blindness North Carolina.
- **This Program is for free eyeglasses only.**
- Contact a local Luxottica (LensCrafters, Sears Optical, Target Optical, corporate Pearl Vision) store manager / OneSight Captain to build a local partnership.

Eye Care America

- Income: Call 1.800.222.3937 to qualify
- Covers: Comprehensive Eye Exams with Dilation
- Ages: Adults—See Criteria Below
- Information: www.eyecareamerica.org
- Age 65 or older and have not seen an eye M.D. in three or more years may be eligible to receive a comprehensive, medical eye exam and up to one year of care at no out-of-pocket cost for any disease diagnosed during the initial exam. Volunteer ophthalmologists will waive co-payments and accept Medicare and/or other insurance reimbursement as payment in full. Patients without insurance receive this care at no charge.
- Those at increased risk for glaucoma (by age, race and family history) and have not had an eye exam in 12 months or more may be eligible to receive a free glaucoma eye exam if uninsured. Those with insurance will be billed for the exam and are responsible for co-payments. The initiation of treatment is provided, if deemed necessary by the doctor during the exam.
- Necessary services for care such as hospitals, surgical facilities, anesthesiologists and medications, are beyond the scope of EyeCare America services. The ophthalmologist is a volunteer who agrees to provide **only** services within these program guidelines.
- Some eye conditions may affect vision as though eyeglasses are needed, when actually, the medical care of an ophthalmologist is needed. **EyeCare America provides this medical eye care, only.** The program **does not** provide eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglass/refraction exams (the prescription part of exam) or cover the cost of glasses.
- Please discuss cost and scope with the doctor BEFORE the examination.
- The qualification process can be accomplished by phone at the above listed phone number or online at www.eyecareamerica.org

Organization	Contact Number	Income Level	Items Covered	Who is Eligible	Ages Covered
Medicaid (Health Check)	800.662.7030	Up to 185% of Poverty Level	Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	NC Residents, US citizens, and qualified immigrants	0-5 years
Health Choice	800.367.2229	Up to 200% of Poverty Level	Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	US citizens and qualified immigrants	6 to 19
Division of Services for the Blind	866.222.1546	Up to 100% of Poverty Level	Cataract surgery's only with prior approval	US citizens and qualified immigrants	All
Prevent Blindness North Carolina	800.543.7839				
VSP Sight for Students		Up to 200% of Poverty Level	Exams and glasses, if prescribed	Child or parent with SS#	Up to 19 and still enrolled in school
VSP Mobile Eyes		Up to 200% of Poverty Level	Exams and glasses, if prescribed	Adults from PBNC Partner organizations	Adults from PBNC Partner org.
Donor Docs		Up to 250% of Poverty Level	Exams and glasses, if prescribed and available in area	SS# not required	Children and Adults from PBNC Partner org.
Healthy Eyes (OneSight)		Up to 200% of Poverty Level	Glasses ONLY (prescription must be current, as in less than 1 yr old)	SS# not required	Children and Adults from PBNC Partner org.
North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children	800.662.7924 ext. 205	All	Exams or glasses (Not Both)	SS# not required	Children enrolled in public school , at least 30 days of the school year
North Carolina Lions Club	800.662.7401	Case By Case	Possibly exams, glasses and other medically necessary services— varies from chapter to chapter	Must be NC resident for 2 years	All
LensCrafters' ONEDAY Event	www.lenscrafters.com	Case By Case	Exams and glasses	SS# not required	All
Eye Care America (www.eyecareamerica.org)	800.222.3937	Case By Case	Medical Eye Exam No eyeglass prescriptions or eyeglasses	US citizenship required	65 years or older At Increased Risk (Family/Race/Age)
Vision USA	800.766.4466	Based on Income and Size of Household Must provide income verification	Comprehensive Eye Exam	US citizens or legal residents w/o insurance and no eye exams in the past 2 yrs	All

New Eyes for the Needy

- Income: At or below US poverty guidelines
- Covers: Basic glasses with single or bifocal lenses
- Ages: Children and adults
- Information: www.new-eyes.org

- Must have had a recent exam and have no resources to pay for glasses. All other programs and organizations must be explored first.

- Applications available through participating social service agencies or a school nurse

- In order to service all applicants from North Carolina, New Eyes is establishing a new procedure specifically for residents of North Carolina. An online eyeglass retailer, Marvel Optics, has partnered with New Eyes to enable North Carolina applicants to receive new eyeglasses efficiently and quickly without being placed on a waitlist. Applicants who choose not to participate in this program will be placed on a waitlist for a traditional voucher. Waitlist times will vary from 4 weeks to 6 months depending on the demand for vouchers and New Eye's funding.

- **This resources must be accessed via a social worker.**

Eye Clinics

- UNC Department of Ophthalmology, Chapel Hill, NC
For general information, call 919.966.5296
To schedule an appointment, call 919.966.5509

- Low-cost eye exams—\$150 internal and external eye exams with dilation and prescription.

- Financial assistance for medically necessary eye surgery for people of all ages, depending on ability to pay.

- Income verification is required.

- Routine eye exams, glasses or contacts are not covered.

Medication Assistance Programs & Services

Benefits Check Up

- A comprehensive web-based service to screen for benefits/programs for seniors with limited income and resources.
- This program strives to find public/private programs to pay for prescription drugs, health care, rent, utilities and other needs.
- For additional information, visit the website at www.benefitscheckup.org

NeedyMeds.com

- Provides a no-cost service to assist individuals in locating patient assistance programs by the name of the drug, program or company.
- Additional databases include information on disease-based assistance, discount drug cards, government programs and programs for children.
- For additional information, visit www.NeedyMeds.org

NC MedAssist

- NC Med Assist is a statewide non-profit pharmacy that provides free prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured North Carolinians
- Must be an NC resident, Income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and cannot have Medicare, Medicaid, VA benefits or any other prescription drug insurance.
- To apply visit www.medassist.org, or call toll free 1-866-331-1348 or 704-536-1790
- The required documents are an enrollment application, current income information, last Federal tax return, and written prescriptions from your doctor.

RxAssist

- A comprehensive database of assistance programs and tools for healthcare professionals and patients.
- The website provides resources on the use and understanding of the programs and materials tailored to providers and consumers regarding medication access.
- For additional information visit the website www.rxassist.org, or send an email to info@rxassist.org.

Medication Assistance Programs & Services (Cont'd)

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

- PhRMA's (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) PPA Program assists qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage access to the medicines they need through appropriate public or private programs.
- To access, call 888.477.2669 or visit www.pparx.org for more information.

RxHope (Allergan)

- A web portal for physicians/patients to submit applications for patient assistance.
- Applications must be submitted in cooperation with a physician.
- For additional information, visit www.rxhope.com or call 800.553.6783.

Together Rx Access Card

- The Together Rx Access™ Card was created to help qualified individuals and families without prescription drug coverage.
- This program assists individuals who are not eligible for Medicare, save on brand-name, generic, or other prescription products.
- For more information regarding eligibility, call 800.444.4106 or visit www.togetherrxaccess.com

The Medicine Program

- This web-based Patient Advocate Organization assists individuals as they enroll in one or more patient assistance programs providing prescription medicine free of charge to those in need.
- Patient must meet the sponsor's criteria; program is conducted in cooperation with the patient's doctor.
- For additional information, visit the website at www.themedicineprogram.com

Medication Assistance Programs & Services **(Cont'd)**

- Alcon US Patient Assistance:
800.222.8103 or www.alcon.com (Alcon Cares, Inc.)
- Merck Helps Patient Assistance Programs:
800.727.5400 or www.merckhelps.com
- Novartis Patient Assistance:
800.245.5356 or www.patientassistancenow.com
- Pfizer Helpful Answers:
866.706.2400 or www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

- Medicare prescription drug coverage provides protection for individuals who have very high drug costs.
- This insurance covers both brand-name and generic prescription drugs at participating pharmacies in your area.
- Medicare recipients are eligible for this coverage regardless of income and resources, health status, or current prescription expenses.
- Visit www.medicare.gov for more information about Medicare prescription drug plans.
- If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for extra help and may not have to pay a premium or deductible. Costs will vary depending on which drug plan you choose.
- For more information, visit socialsecurity.gov or by calling 800.772.1213.

Additional Resources

- NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
888.388.2460 or 919.733.4376 or statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/index.html
- NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
800.689.9090 or 919.855.3600
- NC Division of Services for the Blind
866.222.1546 (Spanish 800.622.7030) or www.ncdhhs.gov/dsb
- NC Council on Developmental Disabilities
800-357-6916 or 919.850.2901 or www.nc-ddc.org
- Mission Cataract USA
www.missioncataractusa.org
- Lighthouse International
800.829.0500 or www.lighthouse.org
- National Eye Institute
301.496.5248 or www.nei.nih.gov