

Lee County

A student, age 9 in 3rd grade was referred after a screening. Parent was very conscientious about following all screenings necessary for this child since he has diabetes. This was a definite change in his vision screening from any previous results. Parent was grateful that we had picked it up very quickly so she could get him seen by an ophthalmologist. Without the screening that we do at the start of the school year there is no telling how far it may have gone before he began to complain. We caught it early so he could be evaluated and monitored further.

School nurse: Mary / mboates@lee.k12.nc.us

Orange County

A student, age 8 in 3rd grade is a special needs child who for years refused to wear his glasses. He had outgrown them and would break or hide them. This year he got a new pair of sports glasses that are break resistant. He wears them proudly every day. Staff and speech therapy report he now walks the hall telling them all the things he can see. In addition to our screening and due to his special needs and a language barrier his team came together to overcome all the barriers and also to find a specialist who could test him after the referral and fully meet his vision correction needs.

School nurse: Meg / meg.mcdaniel@orange.k12.nc.us

Randolph County

A student, age 9 in 3rd grade was referred during the mass screening. After she received glasses the parent's hash tags were as follows:

#schoolnursesrock

#seagroveschool

#nauticaisgettingglasses

#shesaidlookatallthosedots

School nurse: Sue / lstaley@randolph.k12.nc.us

Stokes County

A student, age 16 in 11th grade was referred after the mass screening by a HOSA student. His teacher stated:

All of our teachers are very appreciative for Prevent Blindness training the Allied Health students to assist with vision training so the students of Stokes County can benefit from getting screened and having follow up done if needed. It's hard to learn if you can't see.

School nurse: Karen / karen.bean@stokes.k12.nc.us

2018-2019 E

Resources for Follow-Up

This resource guide has been developed to provide information to school health departments, social workers, and other professionals regarding resources available for vision and 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 sight and promoting good vision.

4011 WestChase Blvd
Raleigh, NC 27606

919.755.5044
800.543.7839 TDD
919.755.5011

nc.preventblindness.org

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.ncdhhs.gov/assistance
Click: Medicaid
- 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.

School nurse can only attribute part of the
School nurse: Jennifer / gilbertje@dareto

Edgecombe County

A student in high school was referred to the school nurse by the teacher and the teacher in November 2017. He had a history of squint even with tutoring. The student sat in the front of the class but continued to squint. It was determined that the student had not had glasses in 5 years and a prescription was obtained by the school nurse and the student was wearing them. The teacher verbalized a problem during class!

School nurse: Sabrina / slancaster@ecps

Gaston County

A student in 1st grade, during a mass screening, was diagnosed with congenital cataracts and referred for care.

School nurse: Joan / jacampbell@gaston

Graham County

A student, age 8 in 2nd grade, received an eye exam during the screening. He ended up having to get bifocals. He now completes his work and has no problems.

School nurse: Amanda / amandaa@graha

Guilford County

A 6th grade student was complaining about blurry vision and far screening but still complained at school. The student came to the school nurse for help. School nurse referred the student for an eye appointment and secured a vision voucher. The student was diagnosed with a weak eye muscle. Glasses were obtained and the student is now seeing better.

School nurse: Susan / shawks@guilfordc

Success Stories

Alleghany County

A student, age 16 in 11th grade was recommended for an eye screening from a translator within the school system. This student received an exam and glasses via a voucher. Her family was thankful as this student was at a disadvantage, not being able to speak English and not being able to see.

School nurse: Luann / luann.tucker@alleghany.k12.nc.us

Burke County

A student, age 17 in 11th grade was not able to see the board very well and came to the school nurse. Student was screened and referred for vision care. School nurse secured care through donor docs program. School nurse reports seeing student have an increase in confidence, smiling more often, and student thanks her each time she sees her.

School nurse: Lisa / lturbeville@burke.k12.nc.us

Camden County

A student, age 16 in 11th grade asked his school nurse for help. He received an exam and glasses though the VSP program. His teacher reports major improvement in headaches, confidence, and reading!

School nurse: Kim / khollingsworth@camden.k12.nc.us

Cumberland County

A student, age 8 in 3rd grade was complaining of headaches. He was given an eye exam and glasses. He no longer complains of headaches and his grades have improved.

School nurse: Janet / janetcolvin@ccs.k12.nc.us

Dare County

A high school student was referred for a vision screening from a math teacher who continually noted the student squinting in class. The student knew she needed glasses, but her family was not insured. After failing her vision screening, the school nurse was able to provide services to the family for an eye exam and glasses. The student's math grade had been as low as 75 and now it's mid to high 80s.

Children's Health Insurance Plan

- Income: Up to 200% of Federal poverty level. Children who are ineligible for Medicaid are eligible for CHIP.
- Covers: Exams, glasses and necessary services v
- Ages: Birth to 19 years
- Information: 800.367.2229 NC Family Health Plan
800.662.7030 DHHS
- North Carolina Health Plan is a program funded by the federal government and the state. The program provides low-cost insurance to children who do not have private insurance and who do not qualify for Medicaid.
- English and Spanish applications are available at health departments and DSS offices.
- Proof of income and child's age are required.
- The same application is used for Medicaid and Health Choice programs. Determination of eligibility is made by the Department of Social Services in the county of residence.
- This program is administered by Blue Cross of North Carolina.
- 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 ext.112 or 800.543.7839 ext.112

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/one per year
- **Eligibility:** Child must be a US citizen with a SS# or parent must be a US citizen with a SS# or legal immigrant Individual taxpayer ID numbers (ITIN) are not acceptable
- **Ages:** Child must be 18 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

Who We Are And What We Do

Prevent Blindness conducts direct service screenings, professional awareness campaigns and research. C

Children's Vision Screening Training Program Prevent Blindness trained and certified **3,241** screeners. Screeners conducted over **500,000** eye exams. More than **39,000** children were referred to eye care professionals for possible eye exam, diagnosis, and treatment.

Preschool Screening Program During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness offered photorefractive screenings to preschool children. Over **33,186** preschoolers were screened. Of the preschoolers screened, **1,353** were referred to eye care professionals for possible eye problems or eye disease.

Adult Vision Screening Program Prevent Blindness conducted vision screenings at community health centers, free clinics, senior centers, corporations, and the NC State Fair. During 2017-18, Prevent Blindness screened **6,333** adults and referred **1,353** to eye care professionals for possible eye problems or eye disease.

Sight For Students Voucher Program (VSP) Prevent Blindness provides free eye exams and eye glasses, if prescribed, to eligible children up to the age of 18 and still enrolled in school. During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness distributed **2,163** vouchers to North Carolina children. The average value of a voucher was **\$113**, making the program value to North Carolina **\$244,649**.

VSP Mobile Eyes Program The program provides free eye exams and eye glasses, if prescribed, to low-income, uninsured adults. During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness distributed **2,163** vouchers to North Carolina adults. The average value of a voucher was **\$153**, making the program value to North Carolina **\$331,000**.

Donor Docs Program Donor Docs is an all-volunteer program that provides free eye exams and ophthalmologists across the state of North Carolina. During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness and in some cases, glasses are provided for eligible children and adults. Over **388** eye exam doctors volunteered to donate **388** eye exams. Prevent Blindness provided **2,163** school children and adults in North Carolina. The average value of a voucher was **\$70,000**, making the program value to North Carolina **\$147,000**.

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
- [Mission Cataract USA](#)
www.missioncataractusa.org
- [Lighthouse Guild](#)
800.829.0500, press 3
- [National Eye Institute](#)
301.496.5248 or www.nei.nih.gov
- [Eye Buy Direct](#)
Sells generic frames and lenses online
www.EyeBuyDirect.com
Must have current prescription (1 year or less)
- [39 Dollar Glasses](#)
Eyeglasses and sunglasses most for \$39.00
1-800-672-6304
Must have current prescription (1 year or less)

VSP Mobile Program for A

- Income: Family income is not more than the Federal Poverty Level with no Medicaid, Medicare, or other public assistance age
- Covers: Exams and glasses (not contacts) through VSP Choice Network participating providers
- Ages: Applicant is 18 years old or older
- Eligibility: Available to PBNC Partner organizations
Applicant is a US citizen or legal resident
Tax ID numbers are not acceptable
- Applicant has not used the VSP Mobile Eye Care Program in the last 12 months.
- Services provided at no cost to families unless additional services extra is purchased.

VSP Eyeglasses

- Income: Family Income is no more than the Federal Poverty Level with no Medicaid, Medicare, or other public assistance
- Covers: Glasses Only (not contacts)
- Ages: Applicant is 18 years or older
- Eligibility: Available to PBNC Partner organizations
Applicant is US Citizen or legal resident
Tax ID's are not acceptable
Must have a less than 1 year old prescription
- Applicant has not used the VSP Program in the last 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.

Medication Assistance Programs (Cont'd)

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

Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

- Medicare prescription drug coverage programs can have very high drug costs.
- This insurance covers both brand-name and generic drugs at participating pharmacies in your area.
- Medicare recipients are eligible for this coverage based on their resources, health status, or current prescription drug plan.
- Visit www.medicare.gov for more information on Medicare drug plans.
- If you have limited income and resources, you may be eligible for a plan and may not have to pay a premium or copay for the plan on which drug plan you choose.
- For more information, visit socialsecurity.gov.

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.

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

**The following are additional community v
filiated with Prevent Blindness North**

North Carolina Foundation for

- Income: No income requirement
- Covers: Eye exams OR Eyeglasses
calendar year
- Ages: All children enrolled in
30 days of the school year in o
services
- Eligibility: US citizenship is not re
- Information: 800.662.7924 or 919.8
Contact: derevana.lead
- School staff must request assistance on be
seek applications or contact the office.
- Applications can be accessed by school sta
ncfpssc.org. Click on "About" then "Get Hel
trieve, complete and submit the application

North Carolina Lions Foundation ,

- Covers: Exams and glasses and
medically necessary
- Ages: 6 and up
- Eligibility: Must be a NC resident
- Information: 800.662.7401, 828.478
- North Carolina Lions Clubs have been activ
and gifts throughout North Carolina.
- Contact your local Lions Club regarding fun
Resources will vary from club to club.

Vision USA

- Is under renovation and will have a new plan, expected 2019.
- www.aoa.org/vision-usa

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 Lens Crafters 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 (One Sight) 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 / One Sight Captain to build a local partnership.

Medication Assistance Programs

Benefits Check Up

- A comprehensive web-based service to assist seniors with limited income and resources.
- This program strives to find public/private programs for prescription drugs, health care, rent, utilities and other services.
- For additional information, visit the website.

NeedyMeds.com

- Provides a no-cost service to assist individuals in finding assistance programs by the name of the drug, program, or state.
- Additional databases include information on drug assistance, count drug cards, government programs for children.
- For additional information, visit www.NeedyMeds.com

NC MedAssist

- NC Med Assist is a statewide non-profit program that provides prescription medicines to low-income, uninsured individuals.
- Must be an NC resident, Income must be below the Federal Poverty Level and cannot have Medicare or private prescription drug insurance.
- To apply visit www.medassist.org, or call 1-800-536-1790
- The required documents are an enrollment application, last Federal tax return, and written verification of income.

RxAssist

- A comprehensive database of assistance programs for health care professionals and patients.
- The website provides resources on the programs and materials tailored to provider and patient access.
- For additional information visit the website.

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 resource 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.

Eye Care America

- Income: www.aao.org to qualify
- Covers: Comprehensive Eye Exam
- Ages: Adults—See Criteria
- Age 65 or older and have not seen an eye doctor in 12 months may be eligible to receive a comprehensive, medical eye exam of care at no out-of-pocket cost for any of the services included in the exam. Volunteer ophthalmologists will waive the cost of care and/or other insurance reimbursement. Those without insurance receive this care at no charge.
- Those at increased risk for glaucoma (by having diabetes, high blood pressure, or having not had an eye exam in 12 months) may receive a free glaucoma eye exam if uninsured. They must have had the exam and are responsible for co-payments if any are provided, if deemed necessary by the doctor.
- Necessary services for care such as hospitalization, surgery, ophthalmologists and medications, are beyond the scope of this program. The ophthalmologist is a volunteer who adheres to the guidelines in these program guidelines.
- Some eye conditions may affect vision as well as overall health. When actually, the medical care of an ophthalmologist is required. **Eye Care America provides this medical eye care.** Some eye conditions may affect vision as well as overall health. Eye Care America provides eye exams, eye glasses, contact lenses, eye surgery, eye prescriptions, eyeglass prescriptions, eyeglass/contact lens prescriptions (part of exam) or cover the cost of glasses.
- Please discuss cost and scope with the doctor.
- The qualification process can be accomplished by calling the phone number or online at www.eyecare.org

Organization	Contact Number	Income Level
Medicaid (Health Check)	800.662.7030	Up to 185% of Poverty Level
Health Choice	800.367.2229	Up to 200% of Poverty Level
Division of Services for the Blind	866.222.1546	Up to 100% of Poverty Level
Prevent Blindness North Carolina VSP Sight for Students VSP Mobile Eyes Donor Docs Healthy Eyes (OneSight)	800.543.7839	Up to 200% of Poverty Level Up to 200% of Poverty Level Up to 250% of Poverty Level Up to 200% of Poverty Level
North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children	800.662.7924 Ext 205	All
North Carolina Lions Club	800.662.7401	Case By Case
LensCrafters' ONEDAY Event	www.lenscrafters.com	Case By Case
Eye Care America www.eyecareamerica.org	800.222.3937	Case By Case

Items Covered	Who is
Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	NC Res US citizen qualified in
Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	US citizen qualified in
Cataract surgery's only with prior approval	US citizen permanent
Exams and glasses, if prescribed Exams and glasses, if prescribed Exams and glasses, if prescribed and available in area Glasses ONLY (prescription must be current, as in less than 1 yr old)	Child or pa SS Adults from ner organ SS# not SS# not
Exams or glasses (Not Both)	SS# not
Possibly exams, glasses and other medically necessary services—varies from chapter to chapter	Must be NC 2 ye
Exams and glasses	SS# not
Medical Eye Exam No eyeglass prescriptions or eye-glasses	US citizensh