

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

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

#nautticaisgettingglasses

#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 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.

4011 WestChase Blvd., Suite 225
Raleigh, NC 27607-3978

919.755.5044 Office
800.543.7839 Toll-Free
919.755.5013 Fax

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
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- 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 that to *improved vision*.

School nurse: Jennifer / gilbertje@daretolearn.org

Edgecombe County

A student in high school was referred to the school nurse by the counselor and the teacher in November 2017. He was noted to be failing Chemistry even with tutoring. The student sat in the front of the class, but continued to squint. It was determined that the student had a 2 line difference and had not had glasses in 5 years due to no insurance. VSP voucher was obtained by the school nurse and it covered the exam, frames and lenses. Student had glasses by mid-December and has been compliant wearing them. The teacher verbalized a positive difference in the student during class!

School nurse: Sabrina / slancaster@ecps.us

Gaston County

A student in 1st grade, during a mass screening, failed and was referred. The student was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma and is now getting care.

School nurse: Joan / jacampbell@gaston.k12.nc.us

Graham County

A student, age 8 in 2nd grade, received an eye exam after his results of the screening. He ended up having to get glasses for nearsightedness and bifocals. He now completes his work and has better grades.

School nurse: Amanda / amandaa@graham.k12.nc.us

Guilford County

A 6th grade student was complaining about his vision. He passed near and far screening but still complained at school and home. Grandmother came to the school nurse for help. School nurse helped make an eye appointment and secured a vision voucher. Student has astigmatism and a weak eye muscle. Glasses were obtained and student is much happier.

School nurse: Susan / shawks@guilfordcountync.gov

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 through 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 (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 NC Family Health Resources
800.662.7030 DHHS customer service
- 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 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 screening programs, public and professional awareness campaigns and research. Our direct service programs include:

Children's Vision Screening Training Program During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness trained and certified **3,243** vision screeners in **226** workshops. Screeners conducted over **519,000** individual student screenings and more than **39,000** children were referred to an eye care professional for a full eye exam, diagnosis, and treatment.

Preschool Screening Program During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness offered photorefractive screenings to preschoolers in **38** counties and screened **33,186** preschoolers. Of the preschoolers screened, **4,434** were referred to eye care professionals for possible vision problems.

Adult Vision Screening Program Prevent Blindness conducts adult vision screenings at community health centers, free clinics, health fairs, 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 vision problems or eye disease.

Sight For Students Voucher Program (VSP) This program targets "gap" children up to the age of 18 and still enrolled in school. Services include a free eye exam and eye glasses, if prescribed by a participating VSP doctor. During the 2017-18 school year, Prevent Blindness distributed **552** vouchers to North Carolina children. The average value of each voucher was **\$113**. making the program value to North Carolina total almost **\$62,000**.

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

Donor Docs Program Donor Docs is an all-volunteer program of optometrists and ophthalmologists across the state of North Carolina. Vision exams and in some cases, glasses are provided for uninsured children/adults who are referred for a comprehensive eye exam. During the 2017-18 year, **128** doctors volunteered to donate **388** eye exams and **304** eyeglasses to help school children and adults in North Carolina. That is an estimated value of almost **\$70,000**. worth of exam and glasses donations.

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 Eyes Program for Adults

- **Income:** Family income is not more than 200% of Federal Poverty Level with no Medicaid, Medicare or other vision coverage
- **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 Poverty 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.

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.patientassistanancenow.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.

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 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 "About" then "Get Help" then "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

- 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 & 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

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 Exams with Dilation
- Ages: Adults—See Criteria Below
- 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
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 Eligible	Ages Covered
Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	NC Residents, US citizens and qualified immigrants	0-5 years
Exams, glasses and other medically necessary services with prior approval	US citizens and qualified immigrants	6 to 19
Cataract surgery's only with prior approval	US citizens or permanent residents	All
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 parent with SS# Adults from PBNC Partner organizations SS# not required SS# not required	Up to 20 and still enrolled in school Adults from PBNC Partner org. Children and Adults from PBNC Partner org. Children and Adults from PBNC Partner org.
Exams or glasses (Not Both)	SS# not required	Children enrolled in public school , at least 30 days of the school year
Possibly exams, glasses and other medically necessary services—varies from chapter to chapter	Must be NC resident for 2 years	All
Exams and glasses	SS# not required	All
Medical Eye Exam No eyeglass prescriptions or eyeglasses	US citizenship required	65 years or older At Increased Risk (Family/Race/Age)