

Financial Assistance for Eye Care



Many state and national programs provide financial assistance to people in need of eye care and corrective eyewear. You may want to contact the following organizations if you need help covering the cost of an eye exam and glasses or contact lenses.

EyeCare America—EyeCare America provides access to eye care for the medically underserved and those at increased risk for eye disease through a corps of 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists dedicated to serving their communities. Founded in 1985, EyeCare America is the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. For more information, contact the EyeCare Program helpline toll-free at 1-800-222-EYES (3937), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or visit <http://www.eyecareamerica.org>.



Lions Clubs International Foundation—Lions Clubs International is a service organization whose local club members are all volunteers. A local Lions club in or near your community may sponsor a program that may help you buy corrective eyewear or obtain eye health care. To find a Lions club near you, access the Club Locator at <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/find-a-club.php>.



Lions Clubs International

VISION USA—Volunteers In Service In Our Nation (VISION USA) provides basic eye health and vision services, free of charge, to low-income, uninsured individuals and their families. Participating optometrists of the American Optometric Association have been donating their services to VISION USA since 1991. For more information, visit <http://www.aoa.org/visionusa.xml>, or call 1-800-766-4466, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., CST, Monday through Friday.



The AOA Foundation
VISION USA
Volunteers In Service In Our Nation

In addition to the programs above, you may also want to contact a social worker at a local hospital or other community agency. Social workers often are knowledgeable about community resources that can help people facing financial and medical problems.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nei.nih.gov/healthyeyes/financialaid.asp>.