

Vision Resource Directory



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USING THIS DIRECTORY

This Vision Resource Directory contains information and resources of interest to the general public with eye health and safety problems and concerns. This guide serves as a directory of national and state vision resources, to assist you in seeking comprehensive health care that may include vision benefits, as well as options for free or reduced cost eye exams, eyeglasses and/or surgical eye care.

Additional resources can be found by dialing 2-1-1. Texas 2-1-1 Area Information Centers are local organizations who maintain a list of resources available in your community. They serve as a link between people who need assistance and the organizations that provide resources.

To learn more about Prevent Blindness Texas, visit www.preventblindnesstexas.org or call us toll-free at 1-888-98-SIGHT.

PREVENT BLINDNESS TEXAS AT A GLANCE

The mission of Prevent Blindness Texas is to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

Established as a non-profit, voluntary health agency in 1956 and incorporated in 1965, Prevent Blindness Texas is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been directly responsible for saving the sight and enhancing the quality of vision life for thousands of Texans. Our primary programming provides critical vision care to Texas' most vulnerable citizens via vision screenings, eye health and safety education programs, referrals for eye exams and eyeglasses for the uninsured, and many other services targeting those Texas residents most at risk for possible vision problems.

Focused on providing a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness Texas touches the lives of thousands of Texans through our sight-saving programs and services through our network of volunteers and offices located in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

PREVENT BLINDNESS TEXAS VISION RESOURCES

Healthy Eyes Eyeglass Program

1-888-98-SIGHT

www.preventblindnesstexas.org (Vision Programs and Services)

Prevent Blindness America has partnered with OneSight, a Luxottica Group Foundation, dedicated to improving vision through outreach, research and education. The "Healthy Eyes Eyeglass Program" serves as a referral system for those individuals who do not qualify for related social services and provides eyeglasses only to those clients who qualify.

In order to qualify for the program, there are certain eligibility criteria that must be met. To apply for services, download and submit the completed application form along with a copy of your current eye prescription that must be less than one year old. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Please allow 3-6 weeks to process your application.

Sight for Students Program

1-888-98-SIGHT

www.preventblindnesstexas.org (Vision Programs and Services)

"Sight for Students" is VSP's national charity program that provides free eye exams and eyeglasses, when prescribed, to those children who qualify. Prevent Blindness Texas will determine if a child meets the eligibility requirements of the program.

If a child is eligible, Prevent Blindness Texas will issue a "Sight for Students" gift certificate along with a list of VSP doctors in the local area. To apply for services, download and submit the completed application to your nearest Prevent Blindness Texas office. Please allow 2-3 weeks to process your application.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NATIONAL

Eye Care America – The Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

1-800-222-3937

www.eyecareamerica.org

EyeCare America provides eye care to US citizens and legal residents through volunteer ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) at no cost to those who qualify. Go to the website or call to find out if you qualify for eye care. EyeCare America facilitates eye care for U.S. citizens or legal residents who are without an Eye M.D. and who do not belong to an HMO or do not have eye care coverage through the Veterans Administration.

Those patients who are age 65 or older and who have not seen an Eye MD 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, accepting Medicare and /or other insurance reimbursement as payment in full: patients without insurance receive this care at no charge.

Those patients who are determined to be 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 they are uninsured. Those with insurance will be billed for the exam and are responsible for any co-payments. The initiation of treatment is provided, if deemed necessary by the doctor during the exam.

InfantSEE – American Optometric Association

1-888-396-EYES (3937)

www.infantsee.org

InfantSEE®, a public health program, managed by Optometry Cares® - The AOA Foundation, is designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an integral part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, AOA optometrists provide a comprehensive eye and vision assessments for infants within the first year of life regardless of a family's income or access to insurance coverage.

Mission Cataract USA

1-800-343-7265

www.missioncataractusa.org/

Coordinated by the Volunteer Eye Surgeon's Association, it is a program that providing free cataract surgery to people of all ages who have no other means to pay. Surgeries are scheduled annually on one day, usually in May.

New Eyes for the Needy

973-376-4903

www.neweyesfortheneedy.org

New Eyes for the Needy provides new prescription eyeglasses to qualifying children and adults in need living in the United States through their eyeglass voucher program. Eligible clients can apply for a voucher through a social service agency or a school nurse. To find out if you qualify, please visit their website or contact them for more information.

Vision USA – American Optometric Association

1-800-766-4466

www.aoa.org/visionusa

Vision USA provides free eye exams to eligible, low-income individuals in the United States. Services are donated by volunteer optometrists who are members of the American Optometric Association and may be limited in some areas. If you are eligible to receive services, you will be matched with a volunteer doctor of optometry who will provide a comprehensive eye exam at no charge. To qualify, applicants must have no private or government insurance, including Medicare or Medicaid; have income below the established level based on household size; have not had an eye exam within the past 24 months; must be a US citizen or legal resident with a social security or legal resident number; and have not received a doctor referral through the VISION USA program in the last two years. You must work with a charitable organization, social worker, case worker, or community health agency to submit an application. Applicants are to provide proof of household income for verification of income level eligibility.

STATEWIDE

Cataract Surgery for the Uninsured

http://www.hosmd.org/UTMB_Cataract_Surgery_Form.pdf

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences has funding to provide cataract surgery for eligible, uninsured patients through a grant in partnership with St. Vincent's House Clinic in Galveston. The patients may reside in any county and will undergo financial and insurance eligibility screening. Cataract surgery will be performed by UTMB residents under direct faculty supervision, and all pre-op testing, medication, surgical costs, and postoperative care will be provided at no or minimal cost. Pre-op and Post-op care will be provided at St Vincent's Clinic. This program will be active for a limited time only and is restricted to uncomplicated cataracts. To apply, click on the link above to download the application.

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Division for Blind Services (DBS) Blindness, Education, Screening, and Treatment Program (BEST) Program

1-800-628-5115

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/best/index.shtml>

The DARS DBS Blindness Education, Screening, and Treatment (BEST) Program assists adult Texas residents with inadequate health insurance benefits with payment for urgently needed eye-medical treatment. Qualified individuals may include those with diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, detached retina, or any other eye disease determined to be an urgent medical necessity. The BEST Program is funded with voluntary donations when Texans renew their driver's licenses or Department of Public Safety-issued identification cards. Demand for this program typically exceeds available funding. During periods when funding is unavailable, DARS will establish and maintain a waiting list. When new funds become available, approved applicants on the waiting list will be served in order by the referral date. Individuals applying for BEST treatment services must apply through their physician or optometrist. The BEST Program welcomes and encourages participation in this important program to protect the eyes of Texas. For questions about the BEST Program, please call 1-800-628-5115 or email questions to DARS.Inquiries@dars.state.tx.us.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI)

1-800-872-5273

www.tsbvi.edu

TSBVI serves as a special public school for students who have a visual impairment. It is a statewide resource for the parents, and the professionals who serve them. Students, ages 6 through 21, who are blind, deafblind, or visually impaired, including those with additional disabilities are eligible for consideration for services at TSBVI.

BEXAR COUNTY

I Care San Antonio

210-220-2379

www.icare-sa.org

I Care San Antonio (ICSA) provides dilated eye exams, refractions and glasses, and medical and surgical eye cares to those clients who cannot afford it and who qualify for services. Applicant must be a resident of Bexar County or surrounding area.

DALLAS COUNTY

Dallas Services - Eyeglass Clinic

214-828-9900

<http://dallasservices.org/>

Dallas Services sponsors "Vision for Children" – Saturday Clinic to provide eye exam and glasses to low income Dallas area children. These clinics are funded entirely through donations from the community. Please contact Dallas Services for more information.

GALVESTON COUNTY

St. Vincent's Episcopal House Free Clinic

409-763-8521

www.stvhope.org/clinic.htm

In partnership with the Galveston West End Lions Club, St. Vincent's House offers free vision screenings to those men, women and children who might otherwise go without medical care or treatment; the indigent, transient (homeless), under and/or uninsured members of our community. Clients who apply and qualify for the referral component may receive assistance for free eye exams and/or eyeglasses.

HARRIS COUNTY

Eye Care For Kids

713-728-5437

www.eyecareforkids.org

Eye Care for Kids Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, formed in 1998 that provides free eye examinations and glasses for low-income, uninsured children in the greater Houston area. Eye Care for Kids Foundation also provides vision screening services for children at community health fairs and to targeted schools.

Good Neighbor Eye Clinic**713-527-8480****www.gnhc.org/**

Good Neighbor Eye Clinic is a satellite clinic of the University Eye Institute that offers a range of vision care, including comprehensive eye examinations, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, and eyewear prescriptions at reduced cost. Eligibility for reduced rates is determined based on a sliding income scale.

La Nueva Casa de Amigos Eye Clinic**713-547-8085**

La Nueva Casa de Amigos Eye Clinic is a satellite clinic of the University Eye Institute that offers a range of vision care, including comprehensive eye examinations, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, and eyewear prescriptions at reduced cost. Eligibility for reduced rates is determined based on a sliding income scale.

Houston Eye Associates Foundation**713-558-8740****<http://foundation.houstoneye.com/>**

Founded by a group of Houston Eye Associates ophthalmologists, Houston Eye Associates Foundation (HEAF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on restoring sight or preventing blindness by providing necessary medical eye surgery and services to those that could not receive assistance elsewhere (through county or government programs). The physicians donate their office time and surgical skills while the HEAF pays for surgery center fees, medications and ancillary expenses for qualified patients. HEAF assistance must be renewed on annual basis.

San Jose Eye Clinic**713-228-9411****www.sanjoseclinic.org/**

San Jose Eye Clinic is a satellite clinic of the University Eye Institute that offers a range of vision care, including comprehensive eye examinations, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, and eyewear prescriptions at reduced cost. Eligibility for reduced rates is determined based on a sliding income scale.

LUBBOCK COUNTY**South Plains Area Agency on Aging (AAA)****806-765-9544****<http://spag.org/Area-Agency-on-Aging.html>**

The South Plains AAA Care Coordination Program provides assistance to senior citizens 60 years and older who are in need of services, including eye exams and eyeglasses.

MATAGORDA COUNTY**Matagorda Episcopal Health Outreach Program (MEHOP)****979-246-2008****<http://mehop.org/>**

MEHOP provides a variety of medial and community services, including \$10 eye exam vouchers available for MEHOP patients every Monday. Vouchers are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

Eye glasses are also available at discounted prices. MEHOP offers a variety of stylish frames to choose from.

POTTER/RANDALL COUNTY

Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle – Adult Eye Care Program

806-376-4571

<http://www.cctxp.org/adult-eye-care.html>

The Adult Eye Care Program works in conjunction with local optometrists and ophthalmologists to provide eye exams and glasses for low-income adults 19 years and older. The eye care professionals provide all of their services free of charge. Individuals seeking assistance from the Adult Eye Care Program may fill out an application. Qualifying clients will receive an eye exam and/or eyeglasses with a participating doctor.

TARRANT COUNTY

Community Eye Clinic

817-289-6800

The Community Eye Clinic is a community-based clinic which provides routine eye care, conveniently located inside First Christian Church. The Community Eye Clinic is providers for Medicare and Medicaid, and has a reduced fee structure based on annual income for un-insured patients. We are also able to provide eye medications at no charge for our un-insured patients who cannot afford pharmacy costs.

Cook Children’s Health Care System (Alexander Vision Clinic)

682-885-4499

<http://cookchildrens.org/SpecialtyServices/Ophthalmology/Pages/default.aspx>

The Alexander Vision Center is the only Fort Worth area facility that provides free eye exams and glasses to low-income, uninsured children. It also provides many families of blind children a unique opportunity for support, hosting activities that allow them to meet and interact with one another and have fun. Its service region includes Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties. Please contact the clinic for the eligibility criteria.

WEBB COUNTY

Laredo Area Agency on Aging (AAA)

956-722-3995

<http://www.stdcoag.tx.us/page9a.html>

The AAA provides medications, eye exams, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and medical equipment to seniors 60 years of age and older.

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NATIONAL

Alcon Cares, Inc.

1-800-222-8103

<http://www.alcon.com/corporate-responsibility/patient-assistance-programs.aspx>

Alcon Cares, Inc. (“ACI”) is a Foundation offering a voluntary public service program which provides medication to qualified individuals at no charge. Each request is subject to approval and fulfillment is based upon current available resources. The Foundation reserves the right to modify or discontinue this program at any time. These products are not to be sold, traded or used for any other purpose.

Avastin Access Solutions

1-888-249-4918 or 1-866-422-2377

<http://www.genentech-access.com/avastin/hcp>

The Avastin Access Solutions Program assists patients who are concerned about access to Avastin (a drug treatment for AMD developed by Genentech) and assists them with health insurance coverage and reimbursement issues.

The HealthWell Foundation

1-800-675-8416

www.healthwellfoundation.org

The HealthWell Foundation provides financial assistance to eligible individuals living with chronic and life-altering illnesses to cover co-insurance, co-payments, health care premiums and deductibles for certain treatments.

Lucentis Access Solutions

1-866-724-9394 or 1-866-422-2377

<http://www.genentech-access.com/lucentis/patients>

The Lucentis Access Solutions Program assists patients who are concerned about access to Lucentis (a drug treatment for AMD developed by Genentech) and assists them with health insurance coverage and reimbursement issues.

National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPIE)

301-340-3940

www.talkaboutrx.org

NCPIE works to advance the safe, appropriate use of medicines through enhanced communication.

NeedyMeds

419-625-9609

www.needymeds.com

NeedyMeds provides information obtained directly from the drug manufacturers regarding special programs to assist people who can't afford to buy the medications they need. Eligibility and application requirements vary from program to program.

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

1-888-477-2669

www.pparx.org

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance helps qualifying patients without prescription drug coverage get the medicines they need through the program that is right for them – free of charge. Many patients will get their medications at no cost or at discounted prices. You may apply online or call toll-free to see if you are eligible.

Patient Access Network Foundation (PAN)

www.panfoundation.org

1-866-316-7263

PAN is an independent non-profit organization that provides assistance to underinsured patients for their out-of-pocket expenses for life-saving medications. Patients and their advocates can apply for assistance by calling 1-866-316-7263 or by applying online.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE SERVICES

NATIONAL

CHIP | Children's Medicaid

1-877-543-7669

<http://chipmedicaid.org>

Children in Texas without health insurance may be able to get low cost or free health coverage from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Children's Medicaid. Both programs cover office visits, prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, glasses, and much more. Families with children who get Children's Medicaid pay nothing and children with CHIP pay no more than \$50 a year for health care coverage. Some families with CHIP also may need to pay co-pays for some services. To qualify, a child must be age 18 or younger (*Children up to age 20 can qualify for Medicaid in some cases), a Texas resident, and a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. You may apply online, by phone, or by mail or fax.

Medicare

1-800-MEDICARE

www.medicare.gov

Medicare beneficiaries, family members, and caregivers can visit Medicare.gov, the Official U.S. Government Site for People with Medicare, for the latest information on Medicare enrollment, benefits, and other helpful tools.

STATEWIDE

Texas Medicaid Program

Call 2-1-1 (toll-free) or 1-877-541-7905

<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/>

Medicaid is a health and long-term care coverage program that is jointly financed by states and the federal government. Each state establishes and administers its own Medicaid program and determines the type, amount, duration, and scope of services covered within broad federal guidelines. States must cover certain mandatory benefits and may choose to provide other optional benefits. Call 2-1-1 (toll-free) or 1-877-541-7905 to find out how to apply for health-care benefits.

BEXAR COUNTY

CareLink

210-358-3350

www.universityhealthsystem.com/what-is-carelink/

CareLink is a financial assistance program to access quality healthcare services through University Health System. CareLink is not an insurance plan and is only for Bexar County residents who do not have private or public health insurance. CareLink offers families a monthly payment plan based on family size and income. CareLink is for families with income requirement below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Bexar County residents interested in applying are encouraged to make an eligibility appointment, bring required documentation, fill out required forms prior to the enrollment appointment, and discuss the following information with the enrollment staff.

HARRIS COUNTY

Harris Health System

www.harrishealth.org/en/patients/access-care

Harris Healthy System's mission is to improve the community's health by delivering high-quality healthcare to Harris County residents. While medical care is not free at their facilities, there is financial assistance for those who qualify. Based on the applicant's household income, the applicant may qualify for partial financial assistance, on a sliding scale. All Harris Health patients are asked to make a minimum payment at the time of their hospital or clinic visit, except for pediatric and prenatal care visit. Service fees do not apply to patients in the Healthcare for the Homeless Program or other insurance plans. Insurance co-pays will be collected according to plan requirements. Application may mail completed application to the address provided or drop off application along with verification proofs at the nearest eligibility center.

PROFESSIONAL EYE CARE RESOURCES

NATIONAL

American Academy of Ophthalmology

415-561-8500

www.eyenet.org

Created and maintained by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, eyenet.org is a website dedicated to educating people about eye diseases and conditions and the preservation of eye health.

American Optometric Association

1-800-365-2219

www.aoa.org

STATEWIDE

Texas Ophthalmological Association

1-800-776-9726

www.texaseyes.org

The Texas Ophthalmological Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote and advance the science and art of medical eye care. This site is intended to provide background information on ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) and on the TOA to non-ophthalmologist health care providers and the general public.

Texas Optometric Association

1-800-707-2020

<http://texas.aoa.org/>

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

NATIONAL

Rides in Sight

1-855-607-4337

<http://www.ridesinsight.org/>

Rides in Sight provides information about senior transportation options in local communities throughout the United States. The Rides in Sight hotline is available Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm Eastern Time (excluding holidays). Their friendly and knowledgeable operators answer all questions about senior transportation options available to seniors and persons with visual impairments.

Inclusion of this material does not constitute endorsement by Prevent Blindness Texas.