



Financial Assistance Information

American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) P.O. Box 7424 San Francisco, CA 94120 (415) 561-8500 FAX: (415) 561-8533 www.aao.org	Sponsors several public service projects in conjunction with the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, under the umbrella name of EyeCare America. See: Diabetes EyeCare, Glaucoma EyeCare, Seniors EyeCare.
American Optometric Association (AOA) 243 North Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63141 (800) 365-2219 FAX: (314) 991-4101 www.aoanet.org	Sponsors VISION USA, a program offering free eye exams all year around. Call (800)766-4466 to request an application or to make inquiries. Or www.aoa.org/visionusa
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry 6110 Executive Blvd. – Suite 510 Rockville, MD 20852 (301) 231-5944 FAX: (301) 770-1828 www.opted.org	Many optometry schools offer low-cost care to people willing to be treated by supervised students. They may also provide free care to people who join research studies.
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 7500 Security Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21244-1850 (877) 267-2323 www.cms.hhs.gov	Visit the website, call or write with questions that cannot be answered by your local Social Security office.

Diabetes EyeCare P.O. Box 7424 San Francisco, CA 94120-7424 (800) 272-EYES (3937) 24-hour hotline www.eyecareamerica.org	Sponsored by EyeCare America through the American Academy of Ophthalmology, they screen callers with diabetes. Those who qualify are referred to a participating ophthalmologist in their area. Patients have to be U.S. citizens or legal residents who are 65 and older, have diabetes, and not been to an ophthalmologist in the last three years.
Elected Official	Check with your state elected official.
Glaucoma EyeCare P.O. Box 7424 San Francisco, CA 94120-7424 (800) 391-EYES (3937) 24-hour hotline www.eyecareamerica.org/eyecare/public/glaucoma	Sponsored by EyeCare America through the American Academy of Ophthalmology, they screen callers for glaucoma risk factors. Those who qualify are referred to a participating ophthalmologist in their area. Patients have to be U.S. citizens or legal residents, and not had an eye exam in the last year.
Health Department	Call your local office.
The Hill Burton Program Health Resources and Services Admin. 5600 Fishers Lane – Room 10C-16 Rockville, MD 20857 (888) ASK-HRSA 24-hour hotline www.hrsa.gov/osp/dfcr/	Participating hospitals and other health care facilities provide medical care for free, or at reduced cost, to those who meet eligibility requirements based on family size and income. Procedures covered vary from hospital to hospital. Request a list of assisting sites available in your state and apply at the hospital.
Lions Clubs International 300 22 nd Street Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 (630) 571-5466 (800) 747-4448 www.lionsclubs.org	Provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through local clubs. Check your telephone book for the telephone number and address of a local club.

<p>The Medicine Program P.O. Box 515 Doniphan, MO 63935-0515 (573) 996-7300 e-mail: help@themedicineprogram.com www.themedicineprogram.com</p>	<p>Assists people to enroll in one or more of the many patient assistance programs that provide prescription medicine free of charge to those in need. Patients must meet the sponsor's criteria. The program is conducted in cooperation with the patient's doctor.</p>
<p>Mission Cataract USA 6716 N. Cedar Ave. – Suite 212 Fresno, CA 93710 (800) 343-7265*</p> <p>*Please note – you will receive a voice message when you call this number. Leave your contact info and somebody will return your call.</p>	<p>Coordinated by the Volunteer Eye Surgeon's Association, it is a program 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.</p>
<p>National Council on Patient Information and Education 4915 Saint Elmo Avenue – Suite 505 Bethesda, MD 20814-6053 (301) 656-8565 FAX: (301) 656-4464 www.talkaboutrx.org</p>	<p>They provide free information on their website regarding the safe use of medicines.</p>
<p>National Federation of the Blind 1800 Johnson Street Baltimore, MD 21230 (410) 659-9314 www.nfb.org</p>	<p>They work to improve social and economic conditions of blind persons. Provides evaluations of present programs and assistance in establishing new ones. Grants scholarships to blind persons. Has a public education program including speakers' bureau. Has several special interest divisions, including those for diabetics, educators, lawyers, parents of blind children, students and public employees. Have affiliates in all states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.</p>

NeedyMeds P.O. Box 63716 Philadelphia, PA 19147 (215) 625-9609 FAX: (419) 858-7221 http://www.needymeds.com	They provide information obtained directly from the drug manufacturers regarding special programs to assist people who can't afford to buy the drugs they need.
Opportunities for the Blind Equipment Grants Opportunities for the Blind, Inc. P.O. Box 510 Leonardtown, MD 20650 (800) 884-1990 www.opportunitiesfortheblind.org	Opportunities for the Blind provides career oriented financial assistance to legally blind U.S. citizens through their programs of Scholarships and Training, Job Related Services, Special Equipment, and Self-Employment Projects.
Pearle Vision Foundation, Inc. Box 277175 Dallas, TX 75222 (972) 277-5000 www.pearlevision.com	They help low-income individuals receive eye surgery, low-vision equipment, eye exams and eyeglass assistance programs. They will also help eligible non-profit organizations to buy equipment or with program development. Write for an application and information on the quarterly deadlines for individuals and information on block grants for non-profit organizations.
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America 1100 15 th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 (202) 835-3400 or (800) 762-4636 FAX: (202) 835-3414 www.phrma.org/	HelpingPatients.org is a new interactive website by PhRMA and 48 of its member companies. This site is designed to help people find patient assistance programs for which they may qualify.
Public Aid	Check with your state, county, or city office.

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)	Contact your local Medicare office for information on qualifying.
Salvation Army www.salvationarmyusa.org	Contact your local office.
Senate Special Committee on Aging Prescription Drug Assistance Programs for Seniors Dirksen Senate Office Building Room G31 Washington, DC 20510 (202)224-5364 http://www.senate.gov/~aging/	Prescription financial assistance. You must go through your eyecare specialist.
Senior Centers	Contact your local center to see if they have financial resource information in your area.
Seniors EyeCare P.O. Box 429098 San Francisco, CA 94142-9098 (800) 222-EYES (3937) 24-hour hotline www.eyecareamerica.org	Sponsored by the AAO and Knights Templar Foundation, they provide a comprehensive medical eye examination and treatment for any condition diagnosed at the initial visit. If a disease is diagnosed and requires ongoing care, treatment will be provided through the project for one year. To qualify, patients have to be U.S. citizens or legal residents who are 65 and older, and not been to an ophthalmologist in the last three years.
Sight for Students, a Vision Service Plan (VSP) (888) 290-4964 www.sightforstudents.org Contact your local Prevent Blindness America affiliate for more details.	This program is in partnership with The Entertainment Industry Foundation, and provides eye exams and glasses to children 18 years old and younger whose families cannot afford vision care.

Social Security Administration (SSA)	Call your local Social Security Administration office for information on qualifying.
Social Workers	Contact a social worker at a hospital or other community agency. Social workers are often knowledgeable about community resources that can help people facing financial and medical problems.
Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)	Call your local Medicare office for information.
United Way www.unitedway.org	Check with your local office.
Vision USA 243 North Lindbergh Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63141 (314)991-4100 www.aoanet.org	Coordinated by the American Optometric Association (AOA), they provide free eye care to uninsured, low-income, working Americans and their families. Patients cannot have had an eye examination in the past 24 months. Applications may be obtained on the AOA website, along with more information. Click on "Meet the AOA" on the left side of the navigator bar, then look for the VISION USA icon.

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