

NEBRASKA CHARITABLE VISION CARE RESOURCES

Statewide Resources

Nebraska Medicaid

Eligibility: *Patients meeting federal Medicaid guidelines*

What's covered: *Routine vision care, eyeglasses*

Availability through: *Medicaid providers*

Nebraska Medicaid medical plans often utilize a third party company to provide routine vision services and glasses. Medical eye issues, such as red eyes, eye injury, painful eyes, etc. are generally billed to the medical plan, not the vision plan. An individual in need of a more routine exam to determine if glasses are needed and basic eye health evaluation would schedule an exam with a provider on their vision plan in their area. The following plans are associated with one another:

United Health Care (UHC) Community Plan - March Vision
Nebraska Total Care - Envolve Vision
Healthy Blue (formerly WellCare) - Avesis

It is also important to note that many Medicaid plans offer replacement glasses for lost, broken or prescription changes. They may not show as eligible upon first authorization check, but there are generally modifiers or appeals forms that can be utilized to obtain coverage for glasses even if the benefit has been exhausted. NFCV can provide tips to your local optometrist on getting replacement pairs covered upon their request.

The best way to contact any of the Nebraska Medicaid plans is to call the phone number on the back of the covered member's card.

Changing Life Through Lenses/Champions for Sight OneSight EssilorLuxottica Vision Foundation

Eligibility: *Uninsured patients of any age*

What's covered: *free eye exam, eyeglasses*

Availability through: *LensCrafters, Target Optical, some Pearle Vision locations, some private practices*

"Changing Life through Lenses" allows eye doctors and charities to create an online account for no-cost prescription eyeglasses, a frame collection, and access to resources on charitable engagement. OneSight EssilorLuxottica Vision Foundation works with schools, nonprofits, charitable doctors and communities to provide vision exams and glasses to underserved individuals. Some practices may require referral from a 501(c)3 entity validating financial need and lack of insurance. Access to "Changing Life Through Lenses" often involved partnering with Lions Clubs to provide vouchers that are redeemable at EssilorLuxottica-affiliated offices for an exam and glasses for those with financial need and without insurance. **EssilorLuxottica**

offices in Nebraska include: LensCrafters, Target Optical, some Pearle Vision locations and some private practices.

The “Changing Life Through Lenses” program has recently undergone changes so the best course of action at this time is to contact the store locations nearest the individual to find out what their process is for participating in this program.

For more information: www.changinglifethroughlenses.org.

The Essilor Vision Foundation also offers resources and care through its *Champions for Sight* program. Schools can partner with Essilor Vision Foundation and access vision care for students and educational materials for classrooms. More information about the Champions For Sight program is available at <https://www.evfusa.org/get-involved/champions-for-sight/>. Schools may sign up at: <https://www.evfusa.org/get-involved/schools/>

KidSight Nebraska (Nebraska Lions Foundation)

Eligibility: Children ages 2-6 (can include children as young as 6 months)

What’s covered: Free vision screening

Availability through: Local Lions Clubs

KidSight Nebraska is a free vision screening program where trained Lions Club volunteers throughout the state conduct vision screening sessions at preschools, kindergartens, and other early childhood centers. Screenings require no preparation or medication. Parental consent is required prior to the screening. Local Lions Clubs can also request a grant up to \$250 to aid a child screened through this program who may need help with costs of a follow up eye exam or eyeglasses. For details: <https://www.md38.com/sight>

InfantSEE

Eligibility: *Any infant age 6-12 months*

What’s covered: *Free Infant eye assessment*

Availability through: *Participating optometrists*

InfantSEE®, a public health program managed by Optometry Cares® - the AOA Foundation, is designed to ensure that eye and vision care becomes an essential part of infant wellness care to improve a child's quality of life. Under this program, participating optometrists provide a complimentary infant eye assessment between 6 and 12 months of age as a no-cost public service. Any 6-12-month-old infant is eligible. To find a participating doctor near you, go to www.InfantSee.org and click on “find a doctor”.

Contact the office nearest to you to find out specifics on how they handle InfantSEE exams and confirm that they are a provider for the program.

National Vision Cares

Eligibility: Patients with no insurance or government health care

What's covered: Free eye exam, eyeglasses

Availability through: Walmart, America's Best, Eyeglass World

Through its domestic National Vision Cares program, National Vision empowers doctors and associates to support people in need in their local communities. All of National Vision's stores have access to the National Vision Cares Program. Each month, stores are provided with vouchers for a free eye exam and pair of glasses to give to eligible patients, customers or individuals in the community in need of vision care and who do not have vision insurance or participate in governmental health care programs, including those who have suffered major financial setbacks or have been affected by natural disasters.

Stores are encouraged to reach out to local organizations, schools and other entities to help identify people that need assistance. The best way to find out if this is an option in your local community is to reach out to the local WalMart, America's Best, and/or Eyeglass World locations near you.

School Vision Clinics

The Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision, in conjunction with Nebraska Optometric Association, offers two templates for communities and schools interested in providing comprehensive eye exams for school children. One option involves arranging a one-time, on-site clinic at a school or community facility. The other option involves partnering with local optometrists to provide care in the doctor's office.

Details and potential resource requirements are outlined in guidelines available on the NFCV website: www.NEchildrensvision.org. (See page for Resources/Schools & Nurses.) One of the expectations involved in school vision clinics involves collecting data on the correlation between vision and academic performance.

See to Learn

Eligibility: Any 3-year-old in Nebraska

What's covered: Free optometric vision assessment

Availability through: Participating Doctors of Optometry

The See To Learn program is offered through the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision in conjunction with the Nebraska Optometric Association as a preventive program to help make sure every child's early education and social development is unaffected by vision problems. Through See To Learn, parents can schedule a FREE vision assessment for any 3-year-old child in a participating optometrist's office. These assessments provide a more comprehensive evaluation of vision than a screening and include a case history, acuity evaluation, testing of eye alignment, and an eye health examination. More than 130 Doctors of Optometry in over 40 communities participate in See to Learn. To find a participating doctor near you: www.seetolearn.com

Vision Service Plan (VSP) – Eyes of Hope

Eligibility: Family income up to 200% of the U.S. federal poverty guidelines, no insurance coverage for the services covered

What's covered: Eye exams, eyeglasses

Availability through: Participating VSP doctors

Eyes of Hope replaces the former VSP 'Sight for Students' program. Sight for Student certificates are no longer being accepted by VSP and **the Eyes of Hope voucher program has been paused and is currently unavailable.**

VSP Eyes of Hope is a voucher-based program that provides eye exams and glasses to people in need. Vouchers/certificates are distributed via charitable partners such as the National Association of School Nurses, American Red Cross, Lions Clubs and Prevent Blindness. Certificates or vouchers must be redeemed through local VSP network doctors. Your local partners should have information about Eyes of Hope and can request certificates through the website: www.giftcertificates.vspeyesofhope.com or at www.partners.vspeyesofhope.com. Fliers can be ordered and more information is available through the website or by emailing giftcertificates@vsp.com.

Locate a local VSP doctor through the Find a Doctor feature at: eyedoctor.vspeyesofhope.com

Not all VSP doctors carry the specific frame brands that are covered by Eyes of Hope. You may have to contact more than one provider listed on the VSP website in order find one to redeem Eyes of Hope certificates.

Local/Regional Resources

LINCOLN

Clinic With a Heart

Eligibility: Uninsured and underinsured

Services: Eye exam, eyeglasses

Available through: Volunteer doctors at external clinics

Clinic With a Heart serves people who are uninsured and under-insured. Please complete an Eye Exam Application located at clinicwithaheart.org under Patient Forms. The clinic may also be reached at 402-421-2924 or 888-317-8608. The clinic is located at 1701 S. 17th St Suite 4G in Lincoln, but eye exams are provided at the offices of participating doctors. Qualifications: Patients must not currently have vision insurance, should not have gotten glasses from CWH in the last two years, and should meet income requirements. Limitations: Patients cannot have vision insurance. A patient may access vision services one time every two years.

OMAHA

Heart Ministry Center -- Monen Healthcare Clinic

Eligibility: Children & adults

Services: Eye exams, glaucoma screenings, vision correction, eyeglasses, contact lenses

Available through: Clinic at 2222 Binney Street in Omaha

The Vision Clinic is provided by volunteer eye specialists. Heart Ministry covers the cost of any glasses, contacts, or necessary prescriptions for community members. The walk-in vision clinic is offered on the first Wednesday of each month. Call 402-932-4887 to reach the clinic. More information available at: <https://heartministrycenter.org/monen-healthcare-clinic/>

Visionmobile

Eligibility: School students in Omaha metro area and surrounding areas. No child will be turned away due to a family's inability to pay.

Services: Comprehensive eye exam, eyeglasses

Available through: Children's Hospital & Medical Center

The wheels on the bus go round and round! Children's Hospital and Medical Center's Visionmobile provides eye care on-site at schools in the metro and surrounding areas. Details and FAQs available at: <https://www.childrensomaha.org/visionmobile/>. Call 402-639-0124 or email Visionmobile@ChildrensOmaha.org for more information about scheduling the Visionmobile for school visits.

OTHER IDEAS FOR LOCAL HELP

Other potential sources of finding financial and/or transportation help related to vision care or eyeglasses for children could include United Way, local Lions Clubs, public health departments, and churches.

Additional Resources

Sight for School Fund

The Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision has a designated charitable fund to cover costs of providing eye exams and glasses for those in need who do not qualify for any of the other available programs. Go to the 'resources' tab on the NFCV website (www.NEchildrensvision.org) and see the page for 'School Nurses & Educators' for more information on how school nurses may make requests for accessing this option for students. This fund reimburses providers to cover their costs of providing an exam and glasses if no other charitable options exist.