

# 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 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

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. For more information: [www.changinglifethroughlenses.org](http://www.changinglifethroughlenses.org).

OneSight EssilorLuxottica Vision Foundation is undergoing quite a bit of change with their merger. They often partner with Lions Clubs to provide vouchers that are then redeemed 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, and some Pearle Vision locations.** 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 the OneSight program. [www.onesight.org](http://www.onesight.org).

## ***KidSight Nebraska***

**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](http://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](http://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 To find a participating doctor near you: [www.seetolearn.com](http://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

NOTE: Eyes of Hope replaces the former VSP 'Sight for Students' program. Sight for Student certificates are no longer being accepted by VSP.

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](http://www.giftcertificates.vspeyesofhope.com) or at [www.partners.vspeyesofhope.com](http://www.partners.vspeyesofhope.com). Fliers can be ordered and more information is available through the website or by emailing [giftcertificates@vsp.com](mailto:giftcertificates@vsp.com).

Locate a local VSP doctor through the Find a Doctor feature at: [eyedoctor.vspeyesofhope.com](http://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. Call the clinic at 402-421-2924 or 888-317-8608 to receive a voucher for vision care which is covered by a CWAH donor. Clinic is located at 1701 S. 17<sup>th</sup> St Suite 4G in Lincoln but eye exams are provided at the offices of participating doctors. Eye exam request form is available online at: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/212426023174142>. See website for more information: [clinicwithaheart.org](http://clinicwithaheart.org).

### **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](mailto: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](http://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.