



Nebraska Foundation
for Children's Vision

Resources for Low-Income Families Who May Qualify for Free or Reduced-Cost Vision Evaluations

- 1. Insurance coverages** - Many insurance companies cover the cost of an eye exam (Blue Cross/Blue Shield, United Health Care, Coventry, Vision Service Plan, Spectera, etc.). Check with the company as to details of vision care coverage.
- 2. Employer-based options** - Parents with cafeteria plans, Medical Savings Accounts, Health Savings Accounts, or other flexible spending plans through employers can typically use these accounts to pay for vision exams.
- 3. Medicaid and Kids Connection** - Office visits, eye exams and glasses are covered. Local social service offices have details as to eligibility.
- 4. SIGHT FOR STUDENTS** - Provides free exam, discounted eyewear for eligible students from participating optometrists. Check website for details: www.sightforstudents.org, School nurses may also have vouchers.
- 5. Lions Clubs of Nebraska** - Clubs located throughout the state provide vision care assistance for needy families. Usually involves referral by teacher, clergy or health professional. Contact local clubs for details.
- 6. Community health centers and services** - Community health centers and community-based health services throughout the state can provide free eye exams for low income families that qualify, or coordinate the availability of reduced-cost services. Check with local social service agencies for options near you.
- 7. Discount plans from health care providers** - Many optometrists and other health care providers offer family discounts, package pricing on children's eyewear, and other in-office discounts. Check with local providers for options.
- 8. Vision USA** - Low income families with working parent and no vision insurance may qualify for free exams from participating optometrists. Call 1-800-766-4466 or check the Nebraska Optometric Association website- <http://nebraska.aoa.org/visionusa.xml> for eligibility guidelines and information about scheduling appointments. There is also a Spanish version of the Vision USA application - nebraska.aoa.org/documents/VISIONUSAAppSpanish.doc.
- 9. SEE TO LEARN®** - A free vision assessment for your three-year old is provided by a participating Eye Care Council eye care professional. SEE TO LEARN® is a preventative health program designed to ensure that kindergarten children entering school can see to learn. This program also educates parents and teachers about the warning signs of vision problems in all school-age children. For participating doctors, call 1-800-960-EYES or visit <http://www.seetolearn.com/see-to-learn.html>.
- 10. InfantSEE®** - InfantSEE® is a public health program 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, an American Optometric Association member optometrist will provide a comprehensive infant eye assessment within the first year of life as a no cost public health service. For participating doctors, call 888-396-EYES or go to www.infantsee.org.
- 11. New Eyes for the Needy** - New Eyes for the Needy purchases new eyeglasses for poor children and adults in the United States and recycles donated glasses for distribution to indigent people in developing nations worldwide - www.neweyesforthenedy.org.