

# Eye Care Programs

Three programs provide free eye-care services to eligible residents of Iowa County. Under Sight for Students and Vision USA volunteer optometrists offer free eye examinations for children in need. These programs may also provide free glasses. Under Eyecare America, volunteer ophthalmologists offer free medical examinations and treatment for eligible seniors, including diabetics, and those at risk for glaucoma.

## ELIGIBILITY

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- Am I Eligible?**
- Sight for Students:*** To be eligible, your children must: be under 18 and not have graduated from high school; have neither Medicaid nor other vision insurance; belong to a family with an income no more than 200% of the Federal poverty level be a U.S. citizen or have a parent who is a citizen or a documented immigrant with a social security number; and not have used. Sight for Students in the last 12 months.
- Vision USA:*** To be eligible, your children must: be 18 years of age or under; have at least one parent who works at least part-time; have no insurance that covers eye care; belong to a family with an income no more that 200% of the Federal poverty level and not have had an eye examination by an optometrist in the last 12 months.
- Eyecare America:*** You are eligible for the Seniors Program if you are a U.S. citizen or legal resident, over 65, do not belong to an HMO or the VA, and it has been more than three years since your last medical eye examination. Income is not a factor in eligibility. Medicare recipients are eligible. If you qualify for the Seniors Program and also have diabetes, you are eligible for the Diabetes Program. The Glaucoma Program is for those at high risk of glaucoma, irrespective of age. If Glaucoma participants have no insurance, the examination and initial treatment are free. If insured, participants are responsible for co-payments.

## BENEFITS

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- What Benefits Can Children Receive?** Both Sight for Students and Vision USA offer free eye examinations for eligible children. Sight for Students also provides free glasses, and Vision USA may also do so, depending on available resources.
- What Benefits Does Eyecare America Offer?** Under the Seniors and Diabetes Programs, eligible seniors receive a complete medical examination and treatment for up to one year. Glasses are not included. Under the Glaucoma Program, participants receive a free test for glaucoma and initial treatment, if necessary.

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## **APPLICATION**

**Sight for Students:** For further information about eligibility and to get an application, contact Kim Trumm at 608-935-3379, or at the Head Start Center in Dodgeville, 212 E Chapel St, Dodgeville, WI 53533. You can also get more information at [www.sightforstudents.org](http://www.sightforstudents.org). If your child is found eligible, you will receive a gift certificate good for care from the participating eye doctor of your choice. You set up the appointment.

**Vision USA:** For further information about eligibility and to get an application, call 800-678-5357 or contact the Wisconsin Optometric Association at 608-824-2200. The WOA office is located at 6510 Grand Teton Plaza, Madison, WI 53719. You can also get more information at [www.woa-eyes.org](http://www.woa-eyes.org). If your child is found eligible, you will be given information on contacting a local doctor, if available, to set up an eye exam.

**Eyecare America:** For more information or to initiate an application, call 800-222-3937 or go on line at [www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org). If you are found eligible, about three weeks after your call, you will receive a letter giving you the name of the doctor assigned to you and asking you to call the doctor's office for an appointment. Most of the participating ophthalmologists practice in Madison. You do need to be driven to your appointment because you will be getting eye drops. Consequently, you should take your driver's availability into account when making your appointment.