



## Helping Ohioans Enjoy Good Sight for Life!

*Approximately 15 percent of Ohioans age 40 and older have some measure of difficulty recognizing a friend across the street; 19.6 percent have not had an eye exam in the last two years.*

### Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEP PP)

*Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership is a statewide collaborative effort formed to respond to the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio. Supported by the Ohio Department of Aging, the AEP PP works to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care policy, vision care services, vision education and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future.*

### Vision Problems are Growing

Half of all blindness can be prevented, but the number of Ohioans who suffer vision loss continues to increase. Because of growth in the aging population, there will be more than 2.5 million Ohioans affected by vision-robbing conditions by 2030. The primary causes are diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

### Protect Your Sight

To make sure your vision remains healthy for as long as possible:

- Exercise;
- Do not smoke;
- Wear sunglasses;
- Have a regular eye exam by an eye care professional; and
- Eat a healthy diet as recommended by your doctor.

Many eye diseases, including those associated with diabetes, do not exhibit any initial symptoms before permanent vision loss can occur. An eye exam with pupil dilation is the best defense against undetected eye disease.

### Eye Care Resources

Learn about statewide resources to help you connect to an eye doctor, prescription assistance, rehabilitation services, educational materials and low or no-cost eye exams.

### Professional Eye Care

Contact the following organizations to find an eye care professional:

#### Ohio Ophthalmological Society

614-527-6799 or  
[www.ohioeye.org](http://www.ohioeye.org)

#### Ohio Optometric Association

614-781-0708 or 800-874-9111  
[www.ooa.org](http://www.ooa.org)

#### Reduced Cost Eye Exams, Care, Glasses and Vision Aids

Contact the following organizations to see if you qualify for free or reduced cost eye exams, glasses or surgical care:

#### Prevent Blindness

800-301-2020 or [www.pbOhio.org](http://www.pbOhio.org)

#### Vision USA - American Optometric Association

800-365-2219 ext. 4200 or  
[www.aoa.org/visionusa.xml](http://www.aoa.org/visionusa.xml)

#### EyeCare America

877-887-6327 or  
[www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org)

#### Ohio Lions Club

614-539-5060 or  
[www.ohiolions.org](http://www.ohiolions.org)

# Ohio Vision Resources and Services Guide



*There are nearly two million Ohioans at risk for visual impairment and blindness. With the aging baby boomer population, the numbers will continue to climb upward. The impact of vision loss on the individual, his or her family, the public health system and the State of Ohio is a significant public health concern.*

## Low Vision Assistance

The agencies below provide vision assistance related to employment disability determination and independent living:

**iCANCONNECT National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program**  
614-429-1378 or  
[www.columbusspeech.org](http://www.columbusspeech.org)

### Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
800-282-4536 or  
[www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)

### National Federation for the Blind (NFB-NEWSLINE)

Telephone reading service for people who are visually impaired.  
866-504-7300 or  
[www.nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service](http://www.nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service)

**American Council of the Blind**  
800-835-2226 or [www.acbohio.org](http://www.acbohio.org)

**Cleveland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**  
(Statewide services)

800-362-1262 or [olbpd.cpl.org](http://olbpd.cpl.org)

**VOICEcorps Reading Service (Central and Southern Ohio)**  
614-274-7650 or  
[www.VOICEcorps.org](http://www.VOICEcorps.org)

**Veteran's Administration**  
Visual Impairment Service Team  
216-791-3800 ext. 2108 or  
[www.visn10.va.gov](http://www.visn10.va.gov)

### Prescription Drug Discounts

Contact the following about qualifying for reduced cost or free prescriptions:

**Partnerships for Prescription Assistance**  
888-477-2669 or [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)

**Ohio's Best Rx**  
866-923-7879 or  
[www.ohiobestrx.org](http://www.ohiobestrx.org)

## Eye Care Education

### Prevent Blindness

Provides eye health and safety educational materials, curriculums, vision screenings and vision screening training.

800-301-2020 or [www.pbhio.org](http://www.pbhio.org)  
[www.WiseAboutEyes.org](http://www.WiseAboutEyes.org)

### Ohio Department of Health

Bureau of Health Promotion  
614-466-2144 or [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

### National Eye Institute

301-496-5248 or [www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov)

### Ohio Ophthalmological Society

614-527-6799 or [www.ohioeye.org](http://www.ohioeye.org)

### Ohio Optometric Association

800-874-9111 or [www.ooa.org](http://www.ooa.org)

## Other Helpful Resources

### Ohio Department of Medicaid

800-324-8680 or  
[www.medicaid.ohio.gov](http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov)

### Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIIP)

800-686-1578 or  
[www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov)

### Ohio's Long Term Care Ombudsman

800-282-1206 or  
[www.aging.ohio.gov](http://www.aging.ohio.gov)

### Ohio Department of Veterans Services

888-387-6446 or [www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov)

### Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. Ohio's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization

614-221-2080 or [www.hsag.com](http://www.hsag.com)

### U. S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

800-633-4227 or [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

### U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

844-698-2311 or [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

### U. S. Social Security Administration

800-772-1213 or [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)



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