

Vision-Related Public Health & Policy

Integrate adult vision messaging and strategies into state and local health improvement planning.

1. Build and maintain partnerships and collaborations to provide input at least once annually to the Governor and Ohio Legislature as well as various state agencies and organizations concerned with Ohio's aging population to ensure a consistent and comprehensive statewide plan of action.
2. Annually review Partnership members, collaborators, and opportunities to provide input regarding vision preservation and rehabilitation to the Ohio Legislature, state agencies, and other related organizations' health improvement plans.
3. Utilize Partnership networks to provide messaging, links and strategies to a minimum of five targeted organizations per year (e.g., tobacco cessation, primary care and rural health, diabetes prevention and control, health promotion and falls prevention).
4. Provide an annual report on the status of the Partnership's work that provides recommended actions by both the private and public sector.

Advocate for coverage of comprehensive vision care and rehabilitation services for adults in Medicaid and Medicare programs.

1. Provide testimony, advocacy alerts and/or other advocacy measures in support of comprehensive vision care and rehabilitation services in the Medicaid and Medicare budgets as well as any other pertinent legislation under consideration (e.g., ensuring coverage for eye exams and eyeglasses for all).

Advocate for the development and expansion of comprehensive vision care and rehabilitation services within community health centers, including federally qualified health centers.

1. Communicate with federally qualified health centers and community health centers about available resources for vision care and rehabilitation services, at a minimum of twice a year.
2. Offer assistance to federally qualified health centers and community health centers to incorporate vision and rehabilitation services within their centers.

Advocate for affordable health insurance coverage for early detection of disease and comprehensive vision care and rehabilitation services.

1. Provide testimony, advocacy alerts and/or other advocacy measures in support of comprehensive and affordable vision care and rehabilitation services in health insurance programs.

Education & Awareness

Educate others in how they can provide access to vision care and rehabilitation services with their clients.

1. Distribute AEPPP quarterly newsletter to Partnership members to share with their networks.
2. Sponsor one Aging Eye Summit per year with focus on one or more of the leading causes of vision loss in adults.
3. Develop and distribute vision resource guides and other tools that offer greater access to vision care and rehabilitation services annually.

Increase awareness about the growth of vision problems amongst Ohio's aging population.

1. Promote greater awareness among legislators by conducting legislative briefings, providing legislative testimony, and providing federal, state and local data regarding vision problems at least annually.

Support early detection and treatment efforts for chronic diseases that impact vision and eye health.

1. Provide testimony, advocacy alerts and/or other advocacy measures in support of legislation that improves chronic disease prevention and care.

Research

Support and advocate for inclusion of vision questions in Ohio and national data collection tools to provide outcome data on which to base statewide public health vision programming.

1. Ensure that Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey includes vision questions.
2. Support inclusion of vision questions in the Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and any other related state and/or national data collection tools.

Support vision-related activities that promote awareness, collaboration and expansion of research.

1. Identify ways to increase vision research and collaborations that better our understanding of the causes of and best treatments for sight-robbing eye diseases.
2. Publicize opportunities to participate in clinical trials.

3. Offer 1-3 Vision Research Fellowship awards annually.

Vision Care and Preservation & Rehabilitation Services

Support efforts that increase evidence-based vision screening practices as well as access to vision care and rehabilitation services.

1. Provide monthly HealthyEyes Advocate and Adult Vision Screening Trainings for organizations and individuals throughout Ohio.

Promote best practices for seniors in maintaining healthy vision.

1. Provide training support and information concerning vision and falls prevention (e.g., Stepping On; Matter of Balance; Ohio Falls Coalition).
2. Seek and create opportunities to reach adults about the need for early detection and treatment of vision problems.

Support efforts that eliminate health disparities in vision and rehabilitation services.

1. Work to eliminate health disparities in vision and rehabilitation services by encouraging measurement, priority setting, and interventions sensitive to the most vulnerable members of society.
2. Advocate for clear health communications and health literacy promotions in an accessible format.
3. Support access to vision care for all Ohioans by advocating for legislation/policy improvement; promoting vision care in community health centers; reinforcing the need for vision care and rehabilitation services in both public and private insurance plans; and by addressing availability of eye care providers and transportation needs.