



OREGON LIONS
Sight & Hearing Foundation

Lions Club Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Referrals & Resources

History/Purpose

The purpose of this program is to refer individuals who contact the Foundation about eyeglass and hearing aid assistance to the nearest local Lions Club for assistance.

How to Access This Program

Callers who request assistance with eyeglasses or hearing aids are referred to the Lions Information Services telephone number – 971-270-0203. Lions Club volunteers review messages from this line and forward messages to caller's nearest Lions Club or – in the case of callers from District 36-O, if the caller lives in an area not currently served by a club they will be referred to the Lions Task Force Chairperson. The Foundation also maintains a list of **No Cost/Low Cost Vision Resources** for callers who may live in an area served by a club which is out of funds or who may not qualify for Lions programs. This list is updated as new resources are located. For clubs which are located in an area where there is a Lens Crafters store, we would encourage you to purchase the **One Sight Prepaid Special Price Vouchers** from Luxottica. You may call the following number to order a book of 10 vouchers for \$500, or a single voucher for \$50 each: 1-888-935-4589. Most opticians located at Lens Crafters store sites charge around \$40-45 for a vision exam. There are specific restrictions which must be explained to the applicant prior to accessing Lens Crafters voucher programs.

For District O Lens Crafters also has another program called **On-Site Vouchers**. When an applicant calls you for assistance, if they **already have a current prescription for eyeglasses**, you would still screen them through the application process which you normally use, but then contact Kerith Vance at the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation office to receive an On-Site Voucher letter for qualified applicants. This has been made available for clubs which do not have their own tax ID number, as Lens Crafters requires a tax ID number for this letter. The recipient then takes their prescription and the letter to the closest Lens Crafters store and if the store has an On-Site Voucher available, they can get free eyeglasses. These eyeglass frames are donated by manufacturers and have greater restrictions than the Special Price Vouchers, so again, the recipients must be made aware of these restrictions prior to going to Lens Crafters.

Please check out the other resources on the list, as there are three different programs through **EyeCare America** for seniors, through which they can get exams, freeing up some of your funding to help others. There is also a program for families needing vision exams, through **Vision USA**. One member of the family must hold at least a part-time job, but if qualified, the whole family is qualified through this nationwide program to receive free vision exams.

Families of children needing assistance can contact **Sight for Students** (however, if the children are not US citizens or legal immigrants, they cannot be served through this program). In 15 counties of Washington and

Oregon, children who don't qualify for Sight for Students may apply through the KEX Kids Fund, by referral from their school nurse.

Qualified Lane County applicants are assisted through the Samuel H. Tyler Commemorative Trust Fund and Morrow County applicants through the Irrigon Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Charitable Trust Fund.

Each Lion's Club will have their own process for handling of vision referrals. We have provided an eyeglass application form for your use. We can also email that in Microsoft Word format if you wish to alter it for your club, for instance, using your club's header and filling in your "Return To" information so it is pre-printed on the form and doesn't have to be filled in each time.

Many new Sight and Hearing Chairs call the Foundation to find out what to do with the application, what provider to send the individual to, how to pay for it, etc. We strongly encourage all Clubs to have a written process and provider list so if your Sight and Hearing Chair becomes incapacitated for any reason, or if a new Sight and Hearing Chair takes over, the process for your club is clearly understood. This is also a good time to review and write down your club's vision and hearing assistance eligibility criteria and policy guidelines. It saves a great deal of stress for that new person stepping in, and also helps the club to be aware of the many facets of the Sight and Hearing Chair position. Other Sight and Hearing Chairs are finding it necessary to establish more stringent guidelines in order to serve as many people as possible with their funds. For example, they may decide to not allow access to their program for two years once they've been assisted, decide on a length of residency requirement, or give the individual 60 days to get their exam and eyeglasses or be dropped to the bottom of the list.

Clark County Washington, 360.750.9157 for Sight, 360.690.4327 for Hearing

Northwest Lions Foundation, 800.847.5786, www.nlfoundation.org

Idaho/Eastern Oregon Lions Foundation, 800.546.6889, www.idaho.lions.org

Lions Clubs International, www.lionsclubs.org, for other out of state or out of country callers

Audient – Alliance for Accessible Hearing Care, 1.877.283.4368, www.AUDIENtAlliance.org. Audient provides new hearing aids to individuals who fall within 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The individual must pay around \$600 per aid, which is still less expensive than many hearing aids today.