



VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project Fact Sheet

WHAT IS VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project?

VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project offers eye care services at no cost to children age 18 and under from low-income, working families in our state. Participating eye doctors and optical labs have agreed to provide their services and products so that children may continue to live and **learn** without suffering from common vision or eye health problems. This program is coordinated through the **Wisconsin Optometric Association (WOA)** and is independent from any other like programs, including those run by the American Optometric Association (AOA). The WOA is a non-profit association consisting of doctors of optometry and is not affiliated with any state or governmental entity. Note: *The WOA does not provide services for adult patients through this benevolent program.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project?

Eligible applicants must be age 18 or younger and enrolled in school, have NO medical insurance which covers vision and eye health care, and have not had eye exam by an eye doctor in the last 12 months. Additionally, the applicant's family income must fall below an established level based upon the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines calculated to 200%, as set by the VISION USA Board of Directors according to household size. Parents/guardians of applicants to the program should be working at least part-time.

WHEN TO APPLY FOR VISION USA

Applications are accepted year-round. WOA strongly recommends that students receive a comprehensive eye exam from a licensed eye doctor before heading back-to-school.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM

Applications in both English and Spanish can be found on the WOA website, www.woa-eyes.org, under Children's Programs and then VISION USA. The following link will send users directly to the VISION USA page: <http://www.woa-eyes.org/vision-usa-public>. On the VISION USA page, parents/guardians will find the program requirements and can access application forms to print and submit to the WOA for consideration.

If parents do not have internet access, they can request an application by contacting the WOA office at:

VISION USA – THE WISCONSIN PROJECT
6510 Grand Teton Plaza, Suite 312
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: 1-877-435-2020

If approved for the program, the applicant will be sent information to contact a specific, local participating eye doctor in order to schedule an eye exam. Each eligible child will receive a comprehensive eye exam at no cost to the patient. Whenever possible, the Wisconsin Optometric Association will work with local eye doctors and local labs to provide basic lenses, if needed.

THE NEED FOR VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project

Many low-income, working families in this country cannot afford vision and eye health care for their children. Because these families earn an income, they often fall between the cracks of government aid and private health care assistance. This is where VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project steps in and provides vision and eye care to children free of charge.

WOA believes the number of children who go without proper vision and eye health care in our country is unacceptable and will continue to encourage parents to have their children's eyes tested before they enter school. The members of the Wisconsin Optometric Association are proud to provide these benevolent services to the children of our state.