

Resources

Resources are listed alphabetically. Availability, eligibility, and services may vary. Schools and families should contact each organization directly for current information.

Utah vision care resources

[Charity Vision \(Sight Buddies\)](#) coordinates with school districts and local optometrists to host vision events that provide free eye exams and free eyeglasses. These services may support students who do not pass tier one vision screening, especially families who do not have insurance or who need help accessing follow-up vision care.

[EyeCare4kids](#) is a nonprofit organization that provides eye exams, glasses, and eye care services for children in low-income communities. EyeCare4Kids has Utah clinic locations and may be able to help families who need low-cost or no-cost vision care. Families should contact EyeCare4Kids directly to ask about eligibility, appointments, insurance, Medicaid, and available services.

[Friends for Sight](#) is a Utah nonprofit that helps schools provide tier one vision screening through trained volunteers, screening materials, and, in some locations, Spot vision screening devices.

After screening, Friends for Sight also partners with schools and local optometrists to provide vision clinics for eligible students who do not pass screening and are uninsured, underinsured, or from low-income families. Students may receive free eye exams and prescription glasses.

In the Salt Lake area, Friends for Sight partners with Rocky Mountain University and the Salt Lake City School District to provide eye care services at Parkview Elementary School. For more information, contact 2020@friendsforsight.org.

[John A. Moran Eye Center](#) and University of Utah Health financial assistance

Families who need help paying for care may contact [University of Utah Health billing](#) to ask about financial assistance or payment options. Financial assistance is based on income guidelines and approval through University of Utah Health. Telephone: 801-587-6303.

[Lions Club](#) is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance for eye care for children who meet eligibility criteria. Check with your local Lions Club for more information.

Local eye care providers and optical businesses

Some local eye care providers, optical shops, and retail vision centers may offer discounts, donated exams, or low-cost glasses. Availability varies by location. Schools and families may contact local providers, such as private optometry offices, Walmart Vision Center, Target Optical, LensCrafters, America's Best, or other local vendors, to ask about low-cost options.

[Rocky Mountain University Eye Institute](#) provides eye care services in Provo. The Eye Institute may offer routine eye exams at [no cost for qualified individuals](#), free glasses for those who meet program guidelines, and medically needed follow-up evaluations. Families should contact the Eye Institute directly to ask about eligibility, insurance, Medicaid, appointments, and available services.

[The Utah Optometric Association](#) has piloted a voucher program in some Utah school districts. The program may provide a no-cost eye exam and pair of glasses through participating volunteer optometrists, typically in private practice settings. Because the program is still developing and may not be available in all areas, schools should contact the Utah Optometric Association directly for current information about availability, eligibility, and participation.

Online resources:

Online vision care resources

Online resources may help families find low-cost eye care or eyeglasses when local options are not available. Families may review national resources such as the National Eye Institute free or low-cost eye care list, the Prevent Blindness vision care financial assistance directory, New Eyes, or EyeCare4Kids.

Online glasses retailers may also be a lower-cost option when a family has a current glasses prescription and pupillary distance, also called PD. Families should use caution when ordering glasses online because online ordering may not include child-specific measurements, frame fitting, adjustment, or review by an eye care professional.

Note: Online retailers are examples only and are not endorsed by DHHS. Families should compare costs, return policies, lens options, and fit before ordering.

[National Eye Institute, free or low-cost eye care](#)

The National Eye Institute provides a national list of programs that may help families find free or low-cost eye care, exams, and eyeglasses. This can be helpful when local resources are not available.

[Prevent Blindness, vision care financial assistance directory](#)

Prevent Blindness provides a directory of organizations and services that may help with eye exams, vision [care, and treatment costs. This may help schools and families look for support beyond local Utah programs.](#)

[New Eyes](#)

New Eyes provides prescription eyeglasses for children and adults in the U.S. who are facing financial hardship. The program uses an e-voucher process and has income eligibility guidelines.

Online glasses retailers

Online glasses retailers may offer low-cost prescription glasses when a family has a current prescription and pupillary distance, also called PD. Examples include [Zenni Optical](#) and [EyeBuyDirect](#), which list children's glasses and low-cost frame options. Families should use caution because online ordering may not include child-specific fitting, frame adjustment, or in-person review by an eye care professional.

Finding an eye care provider

Finding an eye care provider when a family has insurance

Families with insurance should contact their insurance plan or use the plan's provider directory to find an in-network optometrist or ophthalmologist. Families can ask their insurance plan which providers are covered, what services are included, and whether glasses or contact lenses are covered.

Families may also use:

- **Insurance provider directories**, such as VSP, EyeMed, Davis Vision, Medicaid, CHIP, or the family's private insurance plan.
- **Utah Medicaid provider directory**, for families with Medicaid or CHIP. Families can search for providers accepting new Medicaid or CHIP patients.
- **Health plan member services**, for help finding a covered provider. CHIP plans can help members find a provider within their network.
- **Utah Optometric Association** "Find a Doctor" directory, to search for optometrists in Utah. Families should still confirm the provider accepts their insurance before scheduling.
- **American Optometric Association** "Find a Doctor" tool, to search for doctors of optometry by location.

Helpful reminder for families:

Before scheduling, families should ask the provider's office: "Do you accept my insurance?" "Is my child's eye exam covered?" and "Are glasses or contact lenses covered?"

Families with insurance who still need financial help

Some families have insurance but still need help paying for eye exams, glasses, copays, deductibles, or replacement glasses. Families should first check their insurance benefits and ask the eye care provider about payment options, discounts, or financial assistance. Families may also contact local vision programs, such as Friends for Sight, EyeCare4Kids, New Eyes, Lions Clubs, the Utah Optometric Association, or University of Utah Health financial assistance, to ask whether help is available. Eligibility and services vary by program.