



**Ohio's Aging Eye  
Public Private Partnership**

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership (AEPPP) is a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth aging eye challenges in Ohio. The mission of the AEPPP, an initiative, supported by the Ohio Department of Aging, is to develop a strategic plan of action to address issues relating to vision care public policy, vision care services, vision education, and vision research that impact the quality of life for Ohio's seniors now and in the future. The formation of the Partnership and its on-going work is supported by a proclamation from Ohio Governor Bob Taft.

Member organizations of the AEPPP are: AOPHA, Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Council for Older Adults, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Ohio Council for Home Care, Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, Ohio Agencies Serving the Visually Impaired, NASA Glenn Research Center, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Insurance, Representative Kathleen Chandler, Ohio Nurses Association, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Senator Steve Stivers, Senator Randy Gardner, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Osteopathic Association, Ohio Optometric Association, Ohio Veterans Visual Impairment Services Team - VISN 10, Opticians Association of Ohio, and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

### For More Information:

Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership  
C/O Prevent Blindness Ohio; 1500 W. 3rd Ave., Suite 200  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
Phone: 1-800-301-2020  
Visit us on the internet at:  
[www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye)

## VISION RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR OLDER OHIOANS

*Helping Ohioans Enjoy  
Good Sight for Life!*

This publication created by Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership



This resource provided to you by:

# Your Vision is Important!

## Vision Problems Among Aging Ohioans Are Growing!

Today, there are 1,259,000 older Ohioans affected by vision problems that if not detected and treated early, could lead to blindness. Because of the growth in the aging population, there will be **more than 2.5 million Ohioans affected by vision-robbing conditions by the year 2030**, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The burden on our health care system, social/rehabilitative service programs, and quality of life will be staggering.

### Did You Know That....

- **Age Related Macular Degeneration** creates a loss of sharp, central vision. No successful treatment is currently available.
- **Diabetic Retinopathy** involves abnormal growth of blood vessels in the back of the eye which can leak. Management of diabetes and regular preventative eye exams are the best defense against developing diabetic retinopathy.
- **Cataract** is a clouding of the eye's naturally clear lens. This is usually treatable.
- **Glaucoma** causes the loss of peripheral or side vision. Once vision is lost, it

cannot be restored; however, further loss of remaining vision can usually be prevented with treatment.

(Fourth Edition of *Vision Problems in the U.S.*, 2002 - PREVENT BLINDNESS AMERICA and the National Institutes of Health (National Eye Institute.)

### It is Easy to Protect Your Sight!

There are several steps you can take to make sure that your vision remains healthy for as long as possible. Eat a healthy diet as recommended by your doctor, exercise, do not smoke, and most important —

***Have an eye exam performed by an eye care professional on a regular basis!***

Many eye diseases, such as those associated with diabetes or age 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.

### Need Help Finding Eye Care Professionals and Resources?

Read on to find a variety of statewide telephone numbers to help you find an eye doctor, prescription assistance, rehabilitation services, educational materials, access to low or no cost eye exams, and much more!

## Professional Eye Care

Contact the following organizations to find an eye care professional closest to your area:

Ohio Ophthalmological Society  
(614) 527-6799  
[www.OhioEye.org](http://www.OhioEye.org)

Ohio Optometric Association  
(614) 781-0708  
[www.OOA.org](http://www.OOA.org)

## Reduced Cost Eye Exams and Eye Glasses

Contact the following organizations to see if you may qualify for free eye exams, eye glasses, or surgical care for your eyes.

Vision USA— Ohio Optometric Association (Someone in the household must be employed)  
1-800-766-4466 or [www.OOA.org](http://www.OOA.org)

Prevent Blindness Ohio  
1-800-301-2020 or  
[www.PreventBlindness.org/ohio](http://www.PreventBlindness.org/ohio)

Opticians Association of Ohio  
1-800-661-5367 or [www.OAO.org](http://www.OAO.org)

EyeCare America (Program for Seniors)  
1-800-222-3937 or  
[www.EyeCareAmerica.org](http://www.EyeCareAmerica.org)

Ohio Lions Clubs - May be able to provide you with free or reduced cost eye care, eyeglasses, and/or low vision aids.  
(614) 539-5060 or [www.OhioLions.org](http://www.OhioLions.org).

## Low Vision Assistance

Contact the agency listed below to find resources and programs throughout Ohio that will assist individuals with reduced visual ability.

Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission – Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired- 1-800-742-0570 or [www.rsc.ohio.gov/VR\\_Services/BSVI/bsvi.asp](http://www.rsc.ohio.gov/VR_Services/BSVI/bsvi.asp)

## Prescription Drugs

Contact the following organizations to see if you qualify for reduced cost or free prescriptions.

Benefits Check Up  
[Www.BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://Www.BenefitsCheckUp.org)

Ohio's Best Rx  
1-866-923-7879 or [www.OhioBestRX.org](http://www.OhioBestRX.org)

Golden Buckeye (age 60 or better or Medicare-qualified disability)  
1-800-422-1976 or  
[www.GoldenBuckeye.com](http://www.GoldenBuckeye.com)



## Eye Care Education

The agencies listed below can provide you with information about how to keep your eyes healthy and safe. Specific information on a variety of eye diseases is available at these agencies.

Prevent Blindness Ohio — Provides eye health and safety educational materials, curriculums, vision screenings, and vision screening training.  
1-800-301-2020 or  
[www.PreventBlindness.org/ohio](http://www.PreventBlindness.org/ohio)

Ohio Department of Health – Ohio Diabetes Prevention and Control Program  
(614) 644-8311 or [www.ODH.Ohio.gov](http://www.ODH.Ohio.gov)

National Eye Institute  
Call for publication requests.  
(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  
(614) 781-0708 or [www.OOA.org](http://www.OOA.org)

## Aging & Disability Services

Your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) can provide information and provider referrals for a wide variety of services and programs aimed at giving older adults the opportunity to live independently in their own homes and communities.

Available services include, but are not limited to, case management, home delivered meals, home health & personal care services, home modifications, and transportation services.

Ask your AAA about their free in-home long-term care consultation. To find the AAA that serves your community call 1-866-243-5678 or [www.OhioAging.org](http://www.OhioAging.org).

For additional information about aging services in Ohio contact the Ohio Department of Aging at 1-800-282-1206 or [www.GoldenBuckeye.com](http://www.GoldenBuckeye.com).

## Other Important Contacts

Ohio Medicaid Program Consumer Hotline  
1-800-324-8680 or <http://JFS.Ohio.gov>

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP)  
1-800-686-1578  
[www.OhioInsurance.gov](http://www.OhioInsurance.gov)

Ohio's Long Term Care Ombudsman  
1-800-282-1206  
[www.GoldenBuckeye.com/Ombudsman.html](http://www.GoldenBuckeye.com/Ombudsman.html)

Ohio KePro - Ohio's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization  
1-800-589-7337 or  
[www.OhioKePRO.com](http://www.OhioKePRO.com)

Ohio Telephone Reader  
Telephone reading service for the visually impaired  
(614) 274-7650 or [www.OET.edu](http://www.OET.edu)

U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
1-800-MEDICARE or  
[www.CMS.HHS.gov](http://www.CMS.HHS.gov)

U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs  
1-800-827-1000 or [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov)