



## Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership

A statewide collaboration preparing  
for the growth of aging eye challenges in Ohio

**Ohio's Aging Eye Public Private Partnership** (AEPPP) is a statewide collaboration formed to respond to the growth of 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 Partnership and its on-going work is supported by a resolution from Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

**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, Ohio Department of Aging, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Insurance, Representative Kathleen Chandler, Ohio Ophthalmological Society, Senator Steve Stivers, 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.

# OHIO VISION RESOURCES AND SERVICES GUIDE

*Helping Ohioans Enjoy  
Good Sight for Life!*

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



## Enjoy Good Sight for Life!

### Vision Problems are Growing

Half of all blindness can be prevented, but the number of Ohioans who suffer vision loss continues to increase. 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. The primary causes are diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

### Protect Your Sight

There are several steps you can take to make sure your vision remains healthy for as long as possible.

- Eat a healthy diet as recommended by your doctor
- Exercise
- Do not smoke
- Wear sunglasses
- Have an eye exam performed by an eye care professional on a regular basis!

Many eye diseases, including those associated with diabetes and 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.

### Eye Care Resources

Read on to find a listing of statewide telephone numbers to assist you in finding an eye doctor, prescription assistance, rehabilitation services, educational materials, and access to low or no cost eye exams!

### Professional Eye Care

Contact the following organizations to find an eye care professional.

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)

### Reduced Cost Eye Exams and Glasses

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

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.pb ohio.org](http://www.pb ohio.org)

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

EyeCare America  
1-800-222-3937 or  
[www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org)

Ohio Lions Clubs-Lions Clubs may be able to provide you with free or reduced cost eye care, eyeglasses, and/or low vision aids. Call 614-539-5060 ext. 15 or [www.ohiolions.org](http://www.ohiolions.org).

## Low Vision Assistance

The agency below provides vision assistance related to employment, disability determination and independent living.

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 Drug Savings

### Benefits Check Up

Helps you make decisions about public and private programs that are available to save money on prescription drugs and other health-care programs, company patient assistance programs, and other federal and state programs.  
[www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)

### Medicare Part D

Prescription drug coverage for Medicare eligible people.  
1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

### Rx for Ohio-Partnership for Prescription Assistance

1-877-RX-4-Ohio  
[www.rxforohio.org](http://www.rxforohio.org)

### Ohio's Best Rx/Golden Buckeye

For individuals 60 years old and older and families with lower incomes. Check website or call to check income guidelines.  
1-866-923-7879 or [www.ohiobestrx.org](http://www.ohiobestrx.org)

## Eye Care Education

The agencies listed below can provide 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  
[www.pb ohio.org](http://www.pb ohio.org)

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

National Eye Institute  
301-496-5248  
[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) provides information and referral for a variety of services and programs aimed at giving older adults the opportunity to live independently. Available services include, but are not limited to, case management, home delivered meals, physical activity, chronic disease management, fall prevention programs, home health and 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) or [www.connectmeohio.org](http://www.connectmeohio.org)

## Other Important Contacts

Ohio Medicaid/Medicare Program Consumer Information  
1-800-324-8680 or [www.jfs.ohio.gov](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov)

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

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

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

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)

U.S. Social Security Administration  
1-800-772-1213 or [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Read To Me-Telephone reading service for the visually impaired. Will read faxed information for free.  
1- 877-333-8847  
[www.ReadThisToMe.org](http://www.ReadThisToMe.org)

Ohio Telephone Reader - Telephone reading service for the visually impaired. Information provided on a regional basis. For a free three minute demonstration call: 1-888-333-8181 Select your region from the choices provided or visit [www.ohioradioreadingservices.org](http://www.ohioradioreadingservices.org)

Social Security  
1-800-772-1212

or [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)



## For more information contact:

**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 web at:**  
[www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye](http://www.preventblindness.org/ohio/agingeye)