

**Alabama Lions Clubs joins forces with VISION USA and the Alabama Optometric Association to care for uninsured low income families in Alabama.  
Find out how you can get involved!**

About VISION USA

VISION USA - Volunteers In Service In Our Nation - a program of Optometry Cares<sup>®</sup> – The AOA Foundation provides for basic eye health and vision services free-of-charge to low-income, uninsured individuals and their families. Services are provided by volunteer optometrists who are members of the American Optometric Association who donate their time to their local community. More than 431,000 individuals have received care nationwide since the inception of the program in 1991.

To find out more about the program visit <http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/> or [www.aoa.org/visionusa](http://www.aoa.org/visionusa).

Objective of the Pilot Program

To expand availability and ease of access of vision care to low-income, uninsured individuals and their families.

What's Different

- Alabama Optometric Association will work in conjunction with Optometry Cares – The AOA Foundation to actively recruit optometrists to participate in the VISION USA program by donating an eye exam and glasses to low-income uninsured.
- Alabama Lions Clubs will begin referring applicants to the VISION USA program to be assigned to a volunteer VISION USA optometrist to receive a basic eye and vision health examinations and glasses.
- Alabama Lions Club will provide a standardized reimbursement allowance in the amount of \$65 to VISION USA providers for frames, lens materials and laboratory services for those patients referred through the VISION USA program.

How to get Involved

- Alabama Lions Clubs to sign up with the VISION USA program to be referring agents for qualified patients.
- Sign up online at <http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/become-referral-agency/>.

*NOTE: Registered clubs will receive email instructions on how to submit applications online. This email contains the link to the online application form and should "not" be shared with applicants.*

Duration of the Pilot Program

The pilot program will run from January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017.

**How it Works**

1. Alabama Lions Clubs will screen potential applicants to ensure all eligibility criteria are met (low income, uninsured, US Citizen, not had an eye exam in the past 2 years) and submit an online application for services through VISION USA for qualified candidates.
2. VISION USA staff process the application and assign patient to the closest volunteer optometrist with availability and emails notification to the referring Lions Club within 24-48 hours.
3. Referring Lions Club notifies applicant of the doctor assignment.
4. Applicant is responsible for scheduling an appointment within 45 days of receipt.
5. Volunteer optometrist will provide a no cost eye exam along with basic eyewear (single vision or lined bifocals) to VISION USA patients. *(No add-ons or upgrades permitted.)*
6. Volunteer optometrist fills out Patient Information Forms (PIFs) and returns to the AOA office.
7. Upon receipt of PIF, VISION USA staff will email reimbursement request for frames, lens and lab services in the amount of \$65 for single vision or lined bifocals from the referring Lions Club location.  
*Note: If glasses are not needed, no reimbursement is necessary.*
8. Lions Clubs will reimburse the volunteer optometrist directly within 30 days of request.
9. To find out more about the program and download the application, visit <http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/> or [www.aoa.org/visionusa](http://www.aoa.org/visionusa).

For further information about this pilot program, information can be found on our website at <http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa-alabama-project/>.

**Anticipated Results**

- Increased number of optometrists providing care
  - Providers to only receive desired levels
  - Patients assigned evenly across all volunteer providers
  - Reimbursement for frames, lens materials and lab services
- Increased number of referring agencies in the state
  - Lions Clubs referrals to be processed through VISION USA
  - Standardization of reimbursement for materials and lab services
- Increased number of patients served and access to care

**Contact information**

**VISION USA**  
Meghan Endicott or Sandi Gregson  
243 N. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141

**Toll free:** (800) 365-2219, ext. 4261

**Direct:** (314) 983-4261

**Fax:** (314) 991-4101

**E-mail:** [visionusa@aoa.org](mailto:visionusa@aoa.org)

**Website:** [www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/](http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/)

**Signup:** [www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/become-a-vision-usa-provider/](http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/become-a-vision-usa-provider/)

**Alabama Lions Clubs**  
W. Durden Dean, Executive Director

**Phone:** (334) 306-4904

**E-mail:** [durden@alsca.org](mailto:durden@alsca.org)