VISION USA Pilot Program in Alabama  
ALOA Members  
November 2016

ALOA joins forces with VISION USA and the Alabama Lions Club 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® – 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.

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 at no cost.

- Alabama Lions Club will provide a standardized reimbursement allowance 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

- ALOA members sign up with the VISION USA program and set a maximum number of patients they will see on a monthly and / or annual basis. *(Average donation is 1-2 exams per month. The more who get involved, the lighter the load so keep in mind that no amount is too small.)*

- Sign up online at http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa/become-a-vision-usa-provider/, email visionusa@aoa.org or in person at the ALOA state meeting Nov. 4-5.

*NOTE: If you are already participating in the VISION USA program, no action is needed. You will receive further details about the pilot program in early January 2017.*

Duration of the Pilot Program

The pilot program will run from January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017.
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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. *(ODs will never receive more than the agreed upon number of patients.)*

3. Volunteer optometrist will provide a no cost eye exam along with basic eyewear (single vision or lined bifocal lenses) to VISION USA patients. *(Frames to be provided through own inventory or donated frames available from VUSA.) No add-ons or upgrades permitted.*

4. Volunteer optometrist fill out Patient Information Form (PIF) and return to the AOA office.

5. Upon receipt of PIF, VUSA staff will submit reimbursement request for hardware in the amount of $65 for single vision or lined bifocals from the referring Lions Club location.

6. Lions Clubs will reimburse the volunteer optometrist directly.

For further information, program FAQs can be found [http://www.aoafoundation.org/vision-usa-alabama-project/](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  
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 Optometric Association Inc.**

Amanda Buttenshaw  
1043 Ambassador Ct  
Montgomery, AL 36117-7021  
Phone: (334) 273-7895  
E-mail: optometry@alaopt.com

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