About the Community Resource Guide

The goal of this Community Resource Guide is to make sure people who need eye care and vision related services, including services related to the loss or partial loss of one’s vision, know what programs and services are available to them in our community.

This resource guide provides a general listing of local organizations that offer eye care and vision related programs and services. Many of these organizations also offer free or reduced cost services and patient assistance programs for people who are low-income, uninsured, or experiencing significant financial challenges. All of the organizations listed here are happy to answer any questions about their programs and services. Please feel free to contact them directly.

Even if you do not think you need services, we encourage you to explore this information. Your eyesight is a precious gift. As is the case with many eye conditions, people often wait too long to find care and services. It is critical to receive treatment and assistance as early as possible in order to maintain one’s vision and keep vision loss to a minimum. Educate yourself so you can make the best decisions for you or a loved one now, or in the future.

About the Vision Coalition of Greater Cincinnati

The Vision Coalition of Greater Cincinnati was established in 2009 and currently includes Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired; The Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation; Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired; OneSight, A Luxottica Foundation; Prevent Blindness Ohio/Southwest Ohio Chapter and the Foundation Fighting Blindness Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter. At the heart of the Coalition is the desire to improve the delivery of eye care and vision related services through meaningful collaboration. We actively share information, strive to reduce the unnecessary duplication of services and leverage our collective resources to better serve the Greater Cincinnati community.
Mission & Purpose: Cincinnati Children’s will improve child health and transform delivery of care through fully integrated, globally recognized research, education and innovation.

For patients from our community, the nation and the world, the care we provide will achieve the best: medical and quality of life outcomes, patient and family experience and value today and in the future.

Services: The Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Abrahamson Pediatric Eye Institute (APEI) provide clinical expertise in outpatient care for a range of problems.

From the children who need glasses to correct a focus problem to those who need specialized care for amblyopia, strabismus, cataracts, glaucoma, eye trauma, eye cancers, and degenerative or genetic problems of the eye, we offer state-of-the-art technology to evaluate the eye:

- ultrasound
- scanning laser that scans the details of the retina and optic nerve
- specialized equipment to test the electrical activity of the retina and optic nerve.

Vision Screening: Within the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology, APEI also sponsors an outreach in school vision screening program to help detect preventable causes of blindness in children.

The vision screening program provides free vision screening to Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky children (up to age 18), and participates in community health fairs and educational programs. The “Eyes without light” education program helps unaffected students understand the daily challenges of children and adults with impaired vision.

The APEI also supports clinic research initiatives to investigate new and emerging pediatric eye treatments for various types of eye disorders.

For more information on the outreach programs contact carol.weinel@cchmc.org

Cincinnati Children’s Vision Rehabilitation Program (CCVRP): We provide comprehensive, interdisciplinary low vision evaluations to children ages 2-21 who have irreversible visual impairment.

These evaluations include assessment of visual function, eye health, and visual demands in both educational and home settings. Recommendations for magnification devices, assistive technology, and classroom adaptations are made in partnership with the child’s parents and teachers.

After the clinic visit, follow up with the child’s teacher ensures the appropriateness of devices and recommendations, maximizing access to the visual environment.
Mission & Purpose: The American Council of the Blind of Ohio, Greater Cincinnati Chapter (ACBOGCC) is dedicated to improving the quality and equality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired in the Greater Cincinnati area. To this purpose, ACBOGCC directs its skill and energy for equal access to information, education, employment, transportation, art and recreation, and all other facets of daily life, sighted people can take for granted.

ACBOGCC engages in advocacy to inform federal, state, and local officials as well as the general public on issues of importance to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Our members — the blind, the visually impaired, and sighted individuals — all work together to accomplish the objectives of the American Council of the Blind.

People who are blind or visually impaired can function on par with their sighted peers if they choose and if society learns how to include them. Members of ACBOGCC have chosen that very lifestyle and have accepted as their mission the education of others who may chose to become members.

Members are active, productive, responsible, and successful parents and grandparents, employees or retired employees, and citizens in their communities. Two achievements of ACBOGCC are audible traffic signals at many intersections in Cincinnati and accessible (talking) voting machines at the voting poles in Hamilton County.

Services: Legislation Advocacy: Encourages members to communicate with legislators and other public officials to achieve the objectives of the American Council of the Blind.

New Member Recruitment and Orientation

Recreational Activities: Organized Christmas dinners, audio-described plays, boat rides, game events, and sports activities like hiking, tandem biking and skiing.

Scholarship and Awards: three awards given to a person or a group of people who are dedicated to improving the quality and equality of life for individuals who are blind or visually impaired in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Transportation Assistance Program for members and Taxi voucher program

Eligibility: Open to any individual who lives in the Greater Cincinnati area, who is blind or visually impaired or sighted and who is interested in improving life for people who are blind or visually impaired and who can attend monthly meetings on a regular basis. Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, start at 6pm and meet in the YWCA on Walnut Street, across from the main branch of the Cincinnati Public Library. Guests are welcome to attend and may become members after attending twice and being voted in.
Mission & Purpose: The Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission partners with individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment, independence and disability determination outcomes.

Services: Basic services may include counseling and planning; personal and work adjustment training; vocational training; physical and mental restoration; placement; and follow-up on the job. Some of the affiliated programs are: Community Centers for the Deaf, Supported Employment, Independent Living, Business Enterprise, Brain Injury Program, Rehabilitation Technology and Transition Services.

Eligibility: Eligibility is based on three factors: (1) whether a person has a physical or mental ailment which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment (2) if a person can benefit from services in terms of an employment outcome and (3) if a person requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.
Mission & Purpose: Offering blind and visually impaired people the opportunity to seek independence. The Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired assists nearly 5,000 persons annually providing training, rehabilitation, counseling, employment, and information services to help people who are blind, visually impaired or print impaired to live more independently.

Services: Low Vision Service: Clinical evaluation by low vision optometrists and individualized instruction by certified low vision therapists in the use of low vision aids/magnifiers and techniques for using remaining vision more effectively. 45 years of experience in this specialty area; services provided at Gilbert Avenue site, and at several satellite locations. Low vision aids are loaned for trial use before purchase; service covered by Medicare and Independent living program grant can cover services and equipment for those over 55 as eligible.

Early Childhood and Youth Services: Support, information, and intervention services for families and their young children, age birth to 5; consultation and collaboration with teachers and other service providers for all children; also includes music services and orientation and mobility services for school aged children, as well as computer access service and low vision services, including functional vision assessments.

Access Technology Service: One-on-one instruction in the use of computers and
tablets and smart phones using large print, speech or Braille access technology for job, school, or home use; demonstration, consultation and technical services provided note-taker, GPS and cellular/hand-held technology.

**Orientation and Mobility Service:** Instruction in safe, independent travel, including use of the long cane and sighted guide techniques by certified orientation and mobility specialists. Independent living program grant can cover services and equipment for those over the age of 55.

**Vision Rehabilitation Therapy:** Instruction in adaptive techniques for communication skills (large print, Braille, telephone), home management skills (cooking, cleaning, adapted equipment) and personal management skills (clothing identification, diabetic needs, grooming) by certified vision rehabilitation therapists. Independent living program grant can cover services and equipment for those over the age of 55.

**Social Services:** Information and referral to other community resources, individual and family counseling, therapeutic support groups for adjustment to vision loss; assessment of need for services; information and referral services.

**Talking Book Machine Services:** Playback machines from the Library of Congress National Library Service to allow for audio reading of recorded books and magazines; services provided for those in Hamilton and Clermont counties; information on providers for other counties is available.

**Radio Reading Services:** Special radio receivers are provided to individuals to allow access to printed word through radio broadcast service of local and national newspapers, magazines, and special programming.

**Personalized Talking Print:** A specialized telephone information retrieval system that includes information such as news stories, magazine articles, store ads and other useful information.

**Volunteer Program:** Assistance with shopping or other outings, transportation to medical appointments, reading print materials, personal visiting.

**Industries Program:** Employment opportunities for those who are legally blind; industrial and other service contracts.

**Eligibility:** Person should be having difficulties due to an identified vision problem and an up-to-date eye report from an eye doctor is required for most services. CABVI provides services to people of all ages.
Located at Roselawn Lutheran Church
1608 Summit Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237
and St. Vincent de Paul Center, 1125 Bank Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
For appointments: 513-207-6140
Foundation@CEIFoundation.org
www.CEIFoundation.org

Mission & Purpose: The Cincinnati Eye Institute
Foundation opened the Roselawn location in
January 2008 & St. Vincent de Paul Clinic in 2015.
These Clinics are run by volunteer doctors and
staff. Patients receive a free comprehensive
medical eye exam and, if needed, a free pair
of glasses provided by OneSight, a Luxottica
Group Foundation. If a serious condition is
discovered, the clinic helps patients find the
ongoing care or surgical services they need.

The clinic accepts patients from the Greater
Cincinnati region.

Eligibility: To qualify for services, patients
must be 18 or older, have no current eye care
provider, and meet certain annual household
income requirements. Proof of eligibility is
required and no services will be provided
without proof of income. These clinics are by
appointment only; no walk-ins.

The CEI Foundation Vision Clinics

1945 CEI Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
513-878-2300
866-466-2343
Foundation@CEIFoundation.org
www.CEIFoundation.org

Mission & Purpose: The Cincinnati Eye Institute
Foundation’s (CEIF) mission
is to preserve and improve
sight in our community.
CEIF provides access to eye
care services for underserved
populations, advances the education of eye
care professionals, educates the public about
vision-related issues, and funds research.

Service – The CEI Foundation Vision Clinics:
Free eye care services to adults (age 18+)
who qualify. Please see full description listed
under “The CEI Foundation Vision Clinics.”

Community Lectures & Eye Screenings:
The Dr. Richard S. Kerstine Vision Outreach
Program provides free eye screenings and free
educational lectures at various locations through-
out the Greater Cincinnati area, including senior
centers, community centers, nonprofit agencies,
and retirement communities. Centers or agencies
interested in hosting a lecture and/or screening
may call CEIF for more information.

Eligibility: CEIF primarily serves adults. Adults
must meet certain income and other eligibility
requirements. Please see the separate listing
for “The CEI Foundation Vision Clinics” for
more details.

The Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation
Mission & Purpose: To empower people who are blind and visually impaired to be self-sufficient and full participants in their communities. In addition to serving over 1000 individuals annually, Clovernook is one of North America’s largest volume producers of Braille materials. We manufacture specialized files folders and biodegradable paper hot cups, and we perform contract packaging and assembly work for a variety of customers.

Services: All services are available throughout the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Area, including Northern Kentucky and Southeast Indiana. Services are individualized to meet each person’s specific needs and interests.

Community Living Services: Instruction, case management, adaptive equipment, training and support to help people maintain independence in their homes and communities.

Arts and Recreation: A full, well-rounded life includes the pursuit of favorite recreational and social activities. Clovernook offers a wide range of classes and activities designed to help people continue or return to their favorite activities, as well as learn about new leisure activities.

Community Employment Services: Helps people find competitive employment. Clovernook employment specialists evaluate a person’s skills, interests, experience, and goals. Staff assists the person with his or her job search and works closely with employers to assure successful employment outcomes.

Work Adjustment Services: Clovernook provides work adjustment services to help people with developmental disabilities and visual impairments improve their work skills and prepare for community employment or other vocational goals.

Industries Program: On-site manufacturing, assembly, packaging and other competitive job opportunities for people who are legally blind.

Youth Services: The academic instruction students receive in school rarely includes the practical day-to-day life skills necessary to thrive in employment and social situations. Summer day camp programs and year-round activities include arts and recreation, technology and daily living skills training provided in a fun environment.

Transition Services: Through a collaborative effort with Ohio State School for the Blind, Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and other partners statewide, Clovernook serves youth ages 14-22 and adults to age 30 who are making the transition from high school to work, college, technical school and other specialized services.

Eligibility: Individuals served typically have a visual impairment that affects some aspect of independent functioning and demonstrate the ability to actively participate in services. Some specific programs may have additional criteria for acceptance.
Mission & Purpose: The mission of ITNGreaterCincinnati is to provide seniors (60 and older) and visually impaired adults with a 24/7 transportation resource that is “arm through arm, door thought door, go where you want to go when you want to go.” This model empowers its non-driving member to regain control of their transportation decisions. ITNGreaterCincinnati breaks down the isolations that come when seniors gives up the keys, and gives visually impaired adults the freedom to go beyond bus routes at a cost they can afford.

Services: A 24/7 membership-based transportation system for seniors and visually impaired adults. Members who pay dues have access to a fee-per-ride transportation service that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days a week without restrictions on ride purposes.

Eligibility: Seniors age 60 and over, or visually impaired adults.
There are many local Lions Clubs.

Please contact the Lions Club using the following:

Web: www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/cincinnatih/index.php
Email: Cinci.lions@gmail.com
Facebook: Cincinnati Lions Club
Twitter: @CinciLions

Mission & Purpose: To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, and encourage and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs.

Services: Lions Club has 1.3 million members in 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries around the globe. Lions are a service organization which has made an impact from the local to international level with International sponsors endorsing many programs including those aimed at eradicating blindness in developing countries. Locally, many clubs help needy people get eyeglasses they couldn’t otherwise afford, they sponsor vision diabetes screening to identify people who may need further medical or optometric assistance, and help individuals with visual impairments in a variety of ways.

There are approximately 15 Lions Clubs in the Greater Cincinnati Area and each is autonomous in making decision about which requests for assistance to fund and/or respond to. By contacting Mike Walsh, you will be referred to the club/s in your locale to approach for assistance.

Eligibility: Each local club makes decision on a case by case basis depending on the needs of the individual and the club’s ability to help meet the need.
Mission & Purpose: To provide opportunities for employment and independence to individuals with visual disabilities. Kentucky Office for the Blind offers services to individuals to assist their effort to become more independent and productive in the workplace, community, school, and home. The Kentucky Office for the Blind is a state government rehabilitation agency that offers assistance to persons who are blind or visually impaired. They also provide various services for employers interested in hiring or accommodating workers who have a vision loss.

Services: Diagnostics and evaluations, counseling and guidance (medical, surgical and therapy), personal skills development, visual magnifying devices to improve the use of existing vision, rehabilitation technology and equipment training, occupational licenses, tools and equipment, interpreter services provided for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, vocational training, independent living services, orientation and mobility services, and education.

Eligibility: You must have a visual disability and require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment.
Mission & Purpose: We are changing what it means to be blind. The National Federation of the Blind of Ohio advocates for blind Ohioans who are not receiving services, or who have faced discrimination. NSB is knowledgeable about Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, rehabilitation, and library services.

Services: Face-to-face and phone support and advice to blind adults and children and their families. Provide print, CD or cassette information, literature, and publications about blindness and the NFB to these people, government and agency offices, and members. Blind leaders conduct seminars and workshops for parents of blind children, blind students, access technology users, blind diabetics, and local chapter members. Conduct a state scholarship program and help Ohio’s blind students compete in the NFBs national scholarship program. Sign up and train blind people to use NFB-NEWSLINE. Support and make available to blind Ohioans programs, publications and facilities of the national headquarters.

Eligibility: We offer our service and expertise to people losing vision, those who are newly blind, blind people who are having problems, and parents of blind children who need assistance getting the services their youngsters need.
Mission & Purpose: OneSight® is a family of charitable programs dedicated to improving vision through outreach, research and education. Since 1988, OneSight has helped millions see their world more clearly and donated millions of dollars to support optical research and education. Our vision: A world where primary vision care is a reality for everyone. Our mission:

- To restore and preserve clear vision to the over 300 million adults and children worldwide who suffer from poor vision.

- To protect those in high risk areas from developing vision impairment from sun-related exposure.

Eligibility: As OneSight, we exist to provide free vision care and eyewear to all those in need, around the world and in our own backyards. However, we do not select our recipients. Instead, we rely on local charitable partners to pre-screen all recipients based on visual and financial need. Please contact your local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (including The American Red Cross, Prevent Blindness America, other social service) to get help. Or contact your local LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, Sears Optical, or Target Optical in North America to have them assist you with a charitable agency that can sponsor you.

Research: Granting funds to support research seeking cures for preventable blindness.

Education: Investing in the next generation of optical professionals through scholarships and hands-on training.

Services: We give the gift of sight through:

Outreach: Hand-delivery of primary vision care and eyewear through Global, Regional and Vision Van Clinics and in-store and community outreach programs.
Mission & Purpose: The mission of the Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness (PBO) is “to prevent blindness and preserve sight.” Our vision is “helping Ohioans enjoy good sight for life.” Prevent Blindness is the statewide consumer advocate for sight conservation and is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the nation’s second oldest national voluntary health organization. PBO promotes eye health and safety while working to find the cure for blinding eye diseases.

Services
Public Education and Information: PBO supports public policies that advocate good eye health and safety for all Ohioans such as fireworks safety and access to comprehensive, professional vision care for Ohioans of all ages.

PBO offers workplace wellness programming and preschool and elementary classroom curricula that provide facts to make informed decisions about eye health and eye safety.

PBO offers a comprehensive selection of print and audio-visual materials dealing with all aspects of eye health and safety for use at home, work, school and leisure.

Research: PBO funds the PBO Student Fellowship Award for Female Scholars in Vision Research which provides support for scientific research investigating public health issues related to the burden of illness of eye related health and safety. All research grants promote the core mission of Prevent Blindness - preventing blindness and preserving sight.

Early Detection: PBO’s vision training and screening programs enable thousands of volunteers and providers of primary health care to detect potentially blinding eye diseases and refer individuals for professional treatment early, when it is most effective.

Vision Care Outreach programs provide access to comprehensive donated eye care (eye exam, glasses and aftercare) for homeless and medically indigent children and adults.

Eligibility: Programs and services available to all Ohioans. Eligibility requirements vary by program.
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UC Health University Hospital Ophthalmology Clinic

234 Goodman Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
513-584-5461
513-584-2599
www.uchealth.com

Mission & Purpose: UC Health’s mission is to provide the highest quality and most compassionate healthcare through cutting edge clinical services, teaching, innovation and research across medical specialties.

Services: The UC ophthalmology clinic offers a variety of services to those who are eligible. They are a comprehensive ophthalmic evaluation and management, general ophthalmology, refraction, minor procedures such as chalazion excision, skin lesion removal, or paracentesis. They also offer care and evaluations for cataracts and cataract surgery, vitreoretinal disorders and lasers, cornea and external diseases, uveitis, oculoplastics and orbit, neuro-ophthalmology, glaucoma and lasers and contact lens fitting and monitoring.

Ophthalmic Surgery: Emergent, urgent, and elective

Ophthalmic Urgent Care Services: 24/7 resident on-call

Ophthalmic Services: Fundus photography (OIS), fundus fluorescein angiography, diagnostic ocular ultrasonography, visual fields, OCT testing, and color vision testing.

Provision available in the clinic: Will give prescriptions for glasses and assist patients to obtain eyeglasses through Prevent Blindness Ohio and medication assistance programs thought UC pharmacy.

Eligibility: Indigent, Medicaid, Uninsured
Mission & Purpose: The urgent mission of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. is to drive the research that will provide preventions, treatments and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases.

– More than 10 million Americans of every age and race suffer vision loss from these blinding diseases.

– The Foundation has funded thousands of research studies at hundreds of prominent institutions worldwide. Currently, the Foundation funds 116 grants and 71 institutions.

– The Foundation funds leading-edge research in promising areas such as genetics, gene therapy, retinal cell transplantation, and pharmaceutical and nutritional therapies.

– Since its inception on September 16, 1971, the Foundation has raised more than $600 million.

– Retinitis pigmentosa and Usher syndrome are inherited diseases commonly diagnosed during childhood or young adulthood. RP causes severe vision loss leading to legal and/or complete blindness. Children with Usher syndrome are born with varying degrees of deafness and later develop RP.
Age-related macular degeneration has inherited risks and is characterized by a progressive loss of central vision. AMD is the leading cause of blindness in adults over age 55 in the U.S. and other developed countries.

The Foundation has 50 volunteer-led groups across the U.S. These dedicated volunteers raise funds, increase public awareness, and provide support to their communities.

Leading retinal research scientists praise the advances enabled by the Foundation.

The Foundation provides information and outreach programs for patients, families and professionals.

Services: The Local Chapter: Our Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter has leadership from our community who plan and host informational meetings, perform community outreach, lead fundraising efforts, and serve as liaisons between our families and the medical/research community. The Foundation and our local Chapter leadership host a number of events throughout the year. Our National Signature Event is the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky VisionWalk, which occurs the first week of October annually. Others include a golf tournament, wine and beer tastings, dinners, and a host of others which bring together our members, the community, and local businesses.

Resources: The Foundation offers information on resources for genetic testing, physician referrals, information on health and prevention, certification for low vision specialists through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals.

“Eye on the Cure” is the official blog of the Foundation. Authored by officer, and other contributors, the blog provides an insider view of the retinal research field, which, over the past decade, has exploded with scientific discoveries and advancements. The community can connect through the Foundation’s website using social media channels and message boards. “In Focus” and “In Focus Online” newsletters feature articles on the latest retinal research news, including FDA-approved clinical trials for retinal degenerative diseases, and updates on Foundation members and events.

Clinical Trials: Clinical trials are the final clinical research phase necessary for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve a treatment for use in humans. The clinical testing of experimental drugs is normally done in three phases, each successive phase involving a larger number of people.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness maintains a patient registry that may be used to help identify clinical trial participants. The registry is designed to collect basic information about individuals with retinal degenerative diseases. When critical information about a specific disease or clinical trial becomes available, the Foundation will alert individuals in the registry via email and/or regular mail. The registry also provides crucial statistical information to our researchers and helps the Foundation obtain financial support for research projects and educational services.

Eligibility: Anyone who is affected by, has a family member or friend affected by vision loss due to retinal degenerative diseases, or has an interest in promoting our mission is welcome.
Contact Information:
Vision Coalition of Greater Cincinnati
c/o The Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation
1945 CEI Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45242
Toll Free: 1-866-466-CEIF (2343)
www.vcgc.org