

The GAP in Medicaid insurance for eyeglasses

We are seeking \$300,000 to provide professional eyecare and eyeglasses to 5,000 additional children and adults whom slip through the gap in the current Medicaid system. Eye Care 4 Kids is currently one of the largest providers of Utah Medicaid benefits. The funding will enable us serve a greater number of uninsured and underinsured low income children and adults. We will serve them in our Midvale Clinic and Mobile Eye Care Clinic.

Currently Medicaid coverage is limited to:

- Adolescent coverage is limited to 1 eye exam annually
- Adolescent coverage is limited to 1 pair eyeglasses every 2 years only if minimum diopter correction and axis criteria is met
- Adolescent coverage does have a preapproval process for lost or broken glasses before benefit renewal that only assist approximately 30% of those in need of a replacement pair
- Adult coverage is limited to 1 eye exam annually
- There isn't any eyeglass coverage for adults except for pregnant woman who meet a specific criteria

Current Medicaid Gap includes:

- Children/adults who are not eligible for Medicaid
- Children/adults who are eligible but are not enrolled or missed the enrollment deadline
- Children/adults who lose or break their eyeglasses before new benefits are available
- Children covered by Chip that provides the eye exam but not the actual glasses
- Home bound individuals who need home eyecare assistance
- The undocumented population that live in Utah but are afraid to reach out to government agencies
- Adults that have lost their job and do not qualify for Medicaid benefits
- Many Families that move into the State and need to wait for the sign-up period to register for resources

The Gap:

- **Up to 70% of the children that receive eyewear loose or break their eyeglasses before being eligible for new services.** When a child breaks or loses their glasses there is a greater chance that the child will fall behind in school and social activities.
- Adults who need eyewear have no way to receive these needed services. An Adult without needed eyeglasses is more likely it struggle in finding and maintaining employment or support their child in learning and education.

Eye Care 4 Kids is a non-profit 501C3 that has provided eyewear for nearly 100,000 children since 2001. We serve the 28% of the population that need eyewear that cannot afford to purchase it.

Several of Eye Care 4 Kids partners only accept Medicaid for exam coverage. Our partners such as Primary Children's Medical Center and The Moran Eye Center will then refer their adolescent patients to Eye Care 4 Kids were they can receive their prescribed eyeglass.





Recently Eye Care 4 Kids has added a new Mobile Eye Clinic. This funding will enable us to travel to schools, rural areas in the state and Native American Reservations. Our annual Navajo Reservation outreach has been sponsored by American Express since 2003.

Our efforts have received local and national recognition. Here are a couple of News Agencies reports that highlight our efforts:

- NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams (NBC) - <http://www.nbcnews.com/feature/making-a-difference/how-one-pair-glasses-can-make-difference-many-n217111>
- The Dr. Oz show (CBS) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8v_qwab5rmA&feature=youtu.be
- People Magazine - <http://www.people.com/article/jsoeph-carbone-eyecare-for-kids-donates-glasses-real-life-hero>
- Fox News - <http://youtu.be/24Ep-p9sW2A>
- Person to Person with Shauna Lake.
- The State of Utah recognized the Months of October 2004, November 2006 and most recently August 2014 as Eye Care 4 Kids Month.

I want to thank you for all the good you do. If you have any questions, or if I can help in any way, please feel free to call me. My cell is 801-860-0263. If you would like a tour of our clinics please call I would be delighted to arrange it.

Thank you for your consideration,

-Joseph

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*“Helping children see their future
ONE VISION at a time.”*

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