



## Friends for Sight: Expanding Access to Vision Care for Utah's Students

**Friends for Sight (FFS)** provides **no-cost vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams, and prescription glasses** to Utah students who otherwise would go without care. Clear vision is foundational to learning, behavior, and long-term opportunity—yet thousands of Utah children struggle in school simply because they cannot see.

Through trusted partnerships with schools, community organizations, and volunteer eye care professionals, Friends for Sight delivers high-quality vision care directly to children, removing cost, transportation, and access barriers for families across the state.

### Current Impact

#### Last School Year 2024-2025

- **60,992 vision screenings**
  - 240 preschools (14,125 children)
  - 248 youth and school-based programs (46,867 students)
- **1,038 comprehensive eye exams**
  - 667 at Friends for Sight clinics
  - 371 through SightFest mobile clinics

#### This School Year 2025-2026

- **55,000 vision screenings**
  - 270 preschools (1,600 children)
  - 248 youth and school-based programs (39,000 students)
- **1,500 comprehensive eye exams**
  - 800 in clinics
  - 700 through SightFest mobile clinics

These numbers represent children who can now read the board, participate in class, and engage more fully in their education because their vision needs were identified and addressed.



## Future Growth Enabled by Legislative Appropriations

With increased state investment, Friends for Sight could serve an additional 1,220 low-income Utah students annually, expanding access in both urban and rural communities.

### Projected Annual Services

- **2,720 comprehensive eye exams**
  - 1,600 through brick-and-mortar clinics
  - 900 through SightFest large-scale mobile events
  - 1,200 through new SightCare mobile units
  - 100 through SightPass redeemable certificates

### Geographic Reach

- Expansion into Northern and Central Utah rural communities in FY26–27, where access gaps are most acute.

## How These Funds Expand Services

Legislative appropriations would allow Friends for Sight to launch two new service models and scale existing programs, ensuring more children receive timely, appropriate care

### SightCare – Flexible Mobile Vision Care

Beginning in FY26–27, SightCare will offer a small, nimble mobile model designed for schools or communities with 10–20 students in need—too few for large events, but too many to ignore.

This program will require:

- Additional exam equipment
- A Friends for Sight hatchback or small SUV in each region (Northern, Central, Southern Utah) to support mobility and transport

SightCare fills a critical service gap, ensuring no child is overlooked due to geography or scale.



### **SightPass – Local Care, Lasting Access**

SightPass is a redeemable certificate program coordinated with schools and local optometrists.

- Friends for Sight pays participating providers for exams
- Glasses are ordered through OneSight EssilorLuxottica at no cost
- Families receive care close to home

SightPass not only removes financial barriers but also helps families establish ongoing relationships with local eye care providers, supporting long-term vision health beyond a single intervention.

### **SightFest – Large-Scale Mobile Clinics**

SightFest remains one of Friends for Sight’s most impactful programs.

- Grew from **4 events in 2016** to **10–13 events this year**
- Serves up to **100 students in a single morning**
- Delivered directly in schools with volunteer doctors and technicians

#### *Expansion Plans*

- Nearly double SightFest events in FY26–27
- Purchase a cargo van to safely and efficiently transport equipment statewide, reducing costs and supporting growth

### **Clinics – The Foundation of Care**

Friends for Sight currently operates three brick-and-mortar clinics in the Salt Lake metro area, serving 800–900 students annually.

#### *Expansion Plans*

- Increase in clinic days
- Improve school coordination
- Serve more children using existing locations and infrastructure



These clinics anchor the organization’s care model and ensure consistent, high-quality services year-round.

### The Opportunity

With legislative support, Friends for Sight can ensure that more Utah children are ready to learn, thrive, and succeed—simply because they can see clearly.



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