

EyeCare America

Description:

EyeCare America is a nationwide outreach program designed to provide medical eye care to elderly persons. Through a toll-free help line, the program provides eligible elders referrals to qualified ophthalmologists who provide eye care. Ophthalmologists check for cataracts, glaucoma and other eye diseases and treat any condition or disease diagnosed.

Volunteer ophthalmologists provide eye examinations to US citizens or legal residents who are age 65 and older and who do not have access to an ophthalmologist they have seen in the past. Medicare and private insurance is billed, with co-payments waived.

Individuals enrolled in the prepaid health care plans (HMOs) or who receive care through the armed forces or VA hospitals are not eligible. Ineligible persons are provided with information on how to contact a local ophthalmologist.

The following services are not covered:

- eyeglasses, contact lenses, prescription drugs
- hospital services (charged by the hospital)
- associated services of other medical professionals, such as an anesthesiologist

Callers who only want information are sent an easy-to-read brochure that discusses common eye diseases of aging, such as cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration. The program also has access to over 75 eye-care related brochures. *Resources for Individuals with Visual Impairment*, a publication of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, is also available.

EyeCare America is co-sponsored by The Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 65 or older.
- Must be a US citizen or legal resident.
- Must not be enrolled in a HMO or receive care from the armed forces or veterans administration hospital.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:
N/A

Contact Information:

EyeCare America
P.O. Box 429098
San Francisco, CA 94142-9098
Telephone: 800-222-EYES
Website: www.eyecareamerica.org

Related Information:

[Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind \(BESB\), refer to page XV – 12.](#)