

Information Sheet & helpful hints when screening clients for eye care!

Always use the application process even if clients are referred by trusted contacts. Many people have been sent to the clinics for an exam when in fact they have coverage and no one at the club level asked them about it.

Remember—the clinics were started to help people that don't have coverage!

Different coverage's:

School age children have a program through Medicaid called Healthy Kids-Gold. Many children in the state are enrolled in this program, which provides their necessary eye care each year. They can use the same providers as other Medicaid recipients. Most teachers we have dealt with are not asking if the children are in the Healthy Kids program before they refer them to us. Please be sure to check on this possibility. These people should not be coming through the Lions Eye Clinics or having our clubs pay for their glasses.

People 65 or older have Medicare coverage. This program will cover the cost of an eye exam once every two years if but not the cost of glasses. Have these people see the doctor of their choice for their exam, which will be taken care of by Medicare, and then once they have their prescription the club can finance the glasses through Lens Crafters for \$50.00. Keep in mind that Medicare will only pay for a pair of glasses after cataract surgery so tell you client that it is best to have both eyes done one after the other in order to best benefit from this. That is, of course, if both eyes have cataracts.

People with Medicaid have coverage. This program will cover an exam and glasses every year. We have learned that some people have a spend down amount that they must pay, out of their pocket, each month before their Medicaid will cover anything. That should be taken into account when screening. These clients are also provided with any necessary transportation to get to these appointments. If they do not have a large spend down amount they should not be coming through the Lions Eye Clinics or having our clubs pay for their glasses.

Veterans – Just about every veteran has benefits from the government and should get their eye exams through the Veterans Hospitals. Many **choose** not to go to the VA. These people should not be coming through the Lions Eye Clinics. If they served during wartime the VA **will** pay for their exam & glasses, however, if they served in peacetime the VA will only do their exam and then the Lions can decide if they qualify for assistance with their glasses. The Korean Conflict and Vietnam were not considered wars and those veterans are not covered for eye care.