



## **VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project 2012 Fact Sheet**

### **WHAT IS VISION USA?**

VISION USA – The Wisconsin Project offers basic eye care services free of charge to children age 18 and under from low-income families who are currently working at least part time, but whose children have no health insurance that covers eye care. Participating eye doctors and optical labs have agreed to provide their services and products so that children may continue to live and **learn** without suffering from common vision or eye health problems. This program is coordinated through the Wisconsin Optometric Association (**WOA**).

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Eligible applicants must be age 18 or younger, have not had eye exam by an optometrist in the last 12 months, and have no medical insurance covering eye care. Additionally, family income must fall below an established level set by the VISION USA Board according to household size.

### **WHEN TO APPLY**

Applications are accepted year-round. WOA strongly recommends students receive a comprehensive eye exam by a licensed eye doctor before heading “back-to-school.”

### **HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**

Parents who have internet access can simply go to the WOA website, [www.woa-eyes.org](http://www.woa-eyes.org), click on Children’s Programs, and then on VISION USA. On the VISION USA page, they will find the program requirements and can access application forms to print and submit to WOA for consideration.

If parents do not have internet access, they can request an application by contacting:

**VISION USA – THE WISCONSIN PROJECT**  
**6510 Grand Teton Plaza Suite 312**  
**Madison, WI 53719**  
**Phone: 1-877-435-2020**  
**Email: [woacvi@tds.net](mailto:woacvi@tds.net)**

If approved, the applicant will be sent information on contacting a specific local participating eye doctor to schedule an eye exam. Each eligible child will receive a comprehensive eye exam at no cost to the patient. Whenever possible, the Wisconsin Optometric Association will work with local eye doctors and local labs to provide basic lenses if needed.

### **THE NEED FOR VISION USA**

There are a growing number of low income working families in this country who cannot afford vision and eye health care for their children. Because these families earn an income, they often fall between the cracks of government aid and private health care assistance. This is where the VISION USA program steps in and provides eye health and vision care to children free of charge.

There are 22 million children in the U.S. under the age of 5, and only 14 percent of them have had an eye exam. WOA believes this is unacceptable and will continue to encourage parents to have their children’s eyes tested before entering school. The member doctors of the Wisconsin Optometric Association are proud to provide VISION USA services to the children of our state.