



## Vision Programs, Services and Resources

There are a few main types of businesses and professionals that offer vision services.

An **OPHTHALMOLOGIST** is a medical doctor with expertise in both medical and surgical treatment of diseases of the eye. An ophthalmologist may also prescribe corrective lenses.

An **OPTOMETRIST** has doctoral level training in eye and vision care, often with an emphasis on corrective lenses and other non-invasive treatments.

A **LICENSED OPTICIAN** is a technician who fits lenses after receiving the prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist. An optician does not provide eye examinations or prescribe lenses. Any of these three types of specialists may practice independently, but they often work together in the same practice. Check your local yellow pages to find a practice near you.

*For assistance locating providers who may accept Medicaid please contact the following.*

Broome Department of Social Services	36-42 Main Street Binghamton, NY 13905	(607) 778-1100 ext 4
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*Here are some additional agencies that may offer free or low-cost eye examinations, prescriptions, or lenses to eligible individuals through affiliated private practices. Call for more information.*

EyeCare America	PO Box 7424 San Francisco, CA 94120	(877) 887-6327 8 am – Noon, Monday – Friday (Pacific Time)	offers medical eye exams, often at no out-of-pocket cost to those 65 and older who qualify
Lions Club International	<a href="http://www.lionsclubs.org">www.lionsclubs.org</a>		provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through local clubs. A local club can be found by using the “club locator” button found on their website

***The following non-profit organizations offer a broad range of support services, including vision and vocational rehabilitation, support groups, and assistive devices. Call to learn what specific services may meet your needs.***

Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment (AVRE)	174 Court Street, Binghamton, NY 13901	(607) 724-2428
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped	Library of Congress Washington, DC 20542	(202) 707-5100
Southern Tier Independence Center	135 East Frederick St. Binghamton, NY 13904	(607) 724-2111

### ***Vision Services & Medicare***

Medicare does not cover routine eye exams (sometimes called "eye refractions") for eyeglasses or contact lenses. Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers some preventive and diagnostic eye exams such as an yearly eye exam, glaucoma tests and macular degeneration.

### ***Vision Services & Medicare Advantage Plans & Medicaid***

If you are enrolled in a private Medicare Advantage plan, or you also have Medicaid, you should check with your plan to see what it covers. Medicare Advantage plans and Medicaid sometimes pay for services that are not covered under Original Medicare.