From Start Up to Success: Supporting Eye Health and Vision Care Programs at

Health Centers

**The** [**Association of Clinicians for the Underserved**](https://clinicians.org/) **(ACU) with the support of the Centene Foundation for Quality Health Care is now accepting applications from federally qualiﬁed health centers (FQHCs) and federally qualiﬁed health centers look-alikes (FQHC-LAs) to receive $25,000 to assist with start-up costs and expansion of permanent and comprehensive eye health and vision care programs.**

Permanent programs are deﬁned as programs that are located at the health center site and operate year-round on a regular schedule. Some health centers, particularly those in rural areas, may apply for portable equipment to operate a ﬂexible clinical model where services are made available at more than one site on a regular schedule.

FQHCs and FQHC-LAs must plan on providing [comprehensive eye exams](https://www.aoa.org/healthy-eyes/caring-for-your-eyes/eye-exams?sso=y) as deﬁned by the American Optometric Association. Grants will not be made available for programs that are limited to vision screenings and referrals.

**Grantees Receive**

$25,000 for the start-up or expansion of services of permanent and comprehensive eye health and vision care programs.

Direct training and technical assistance from members of ACU’s Vision Services Committee and other subject matter experts who will be able to provide guidance and troubleshoot any start up or expansion issues.

Flyers to promote a patient-story program. Each participating patient will receive a $100 gift card.

Press release templates to promote new or expanded services within your community.

For more information, please download the [ﬂyer](https://clinicians.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2023-ACU-Vision-Eye-Grant-Flyer.pdf).

**Grant Timeline**

Applications accepted: October - December 31, 2022 Application review: January 2023

Notiﬁcation of awards: No later than February 15, 2023 Funds disbursed: No later than March 31, 2023 Deadline for program start up: September 30, 2023

Completion of reporting requirements: November 30, 2024

**For questions, please contact Luke Ertle, ACU’s Program Director, at** **lertle@clinicians.org****.**

1. **Eligibility:**

To get started, please conﬁrm that your organization is eligible to receive this grant. If you [are unsure if your organization is an FQHC or an FQHC-LA, you can search the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) website to conﬁrm your organization's eligibility.](https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/data-explorer?paramServiceId=EHB%20SITE)

 Eligible: My organization is an FQHC.  Eligible: My organization is an FQHC-LA.

Ineligible: None of the above.

1. **Eligibility:**

Please see the eligible uses of funds below and indicate which scenario best ﬁts your organization's planned use of funding.

 Eligible: My organization has not oﬀered comprehensive eye exams in the past and will use the funds to begin oﬀering comprehensive exams for the ﬁrst time.

 Eligible: My organization already has an existing eye health/vision services program and plans to set up a vision lane at a location/site that does not currently provide comprehensive eye exams. For example, the organization already has a vision lane at one location and is looking to set up a vision lane at a diﬀerent location/site.

 Eligible: My organization already has an existing eye health/vision services program and plans to set up a new vision lane at a location/site that already provides comprehensive eye exams. For example, the organization already has one vision lane and is looking to add a second vision lane at the same location/site.

1. **Grant Requirements**

Please indicate that you understand the requirements of the grant and agree to the following:

Must use funds to support the cost of new equipment and services necessary to establish or expand vision care programs. Funds may not be used to support salaries, contracted optometry or ophthalmology services, replacement equipment, or construction costs.

* Must be willing to provide direct vision services including vision exams and prescription glasses (not a referral program)

Must have your vision care program operating and accepting patients within 6-months of receiving the grant -- September 30, 2023.

Must agree to share aggregated vision service data which includes number of patients seen and patient demographics (race and ethnicity, age, and speciﬁc populations) after 6- and 12- months of providing vision services. Please review the [reporting template](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DGFR9CN) to ensure that your organization is already collecting and tracking all data points or is able to begin collecting these data points for project reporting. Approximate reporting timelines would be:

**October 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024**: Data will be submitted to ACU by May 31,

2024.

**May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024**: Data will be submitted to ACU by November 30, 2024.

Must share an informational ﬂyer with vision care patients to assist ACU in collecting success stories and recruit two (2) patients by October 31, 2023. Patients who volunteer to be interviewed by ACU will receive a $100 gift card. Patient names will not be included in success stories.

Must have one (1) representative from the organization attend a total of three project calls. These calls will scheduled during the following timeframes:

April/May 2023

October/November 2023

March/April 2024

 Yes, I conﬁrm that I agree to the grant requirements.  No, I do not agree to the grant requirements

Continue to the next page to begin the application.

1. **Project/Implementation Manager Contact Info**

**Name**

**Organization Name**

**Job Title**

**City/Town**

**State/Province**

**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

1. CEO Contact Info

**Name**

**Email Address**

1. CMO Contact Info

**Name**

**Email Address**

1. CFO Contact Info

**Name**

**Email Address**

1. Address of site where vision services are to be provided:
2. Please select all that describe the site where vision services will be provided

Urban location Rural location HCH site

Migrant agricultural worker site

Public housing site School

None of the above

1. Approximate number of patients served by your health center in 2021.
2. Please describe the community/patient population targeted for vision services describing any current gaps in care. (Max 250 words)

1. Approximate date when your vision services program will be open to the public (MM/DD/YY).

Date / Time

Date

MM/DD/YYYY

1. How many days per week is the version services site expected to be open to the public?

 5 days a week

 2 to 4 days a week  1 day a week or less

1. How will you use the grant? (Max 250 words)

1. How will glasses be provided to your patients?

 Our health center will provide prescription glasses to patients

 Our health center will provide a written prescription and referral to a partnering organization for glasses  Our health center will provide a written prescription for glasses but we do not partner with an organization

to provide glasses

 Other (please specify)

1. What other sources of funding will you secure for you your vision services program, if any? (Max 250 words)

1. All health center grantees will be required to implement their plan within six months of award. Please describe your 30, 90, and 180-day implementation plan. (Max 500 words)

1. What is your health center’s plan for sustainability of the vision services program? (Max 250 words)

1. What are any perceived barriers to start up or expansion of these services and strategies to mitigate these issues? (Max 250 words)

\* 20. Health centers in the following states and counties are especially encouraged to apply. Is your health center located in any of the following states or counties?

 Florida  Georgia  Michigan

Nebraska

 North Carolina  Texas

None of the above