

# ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION



While vision impairment affects billions of people across the world, it also impacts millions right here in the U.S. In fact, it's estimated that a staggering 12 million children in the U.S. lack an essential yet simple solution to allow them to live up to their potential. Something so simple as a pair of glasses can change a child's life.

## **The Issue:**

Good vision is crucial for learning, yet 25% of American schoolchildren have vision problems significant enough to affect learning. The number of children with vision problems climbs even higher in lower-income children.

Did you know that 90% of children who need glasses don't have or wear them? Vision is an "invisible" problem as most parents are unable to detect signs of vision impairments and children who have vision issues believe their sight is normal.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, vision impairment is one of the most prevalent disabling conditions among children in the U.S. The ultimate goal is to eliminate the barriers to vision care so that all U.S. children have the ability to see clearly. While 80% of all vision impairments can be prevented or cured only 10% of children ages 9-15 who need eyeglasses actually have them.

Other research shows that children who progress through their education without having their vision addressed are more likely to become frustrated in school, unable to keep pace with their peers which can culminate in low self-esteem, unemployment and can lead to poverty. Vision impacts every aspect of a child's life. By helping children to see clearly, we are elevating their overall quality of life.

## **Who We Are:**

Essilor Vision Foundation empowers kids to reach their full potential by giving them the ability to see clearly. By supporting vision programs, Essilor Vision Foundation bridges the gap between awareness, access and affordability of vision care. We address the issue by educating the public on the importance of vision care, work with communities to help the underserved and provide eyeglasses at no cost.

A small donation of only \$50 can help provide vision exam and pair of glasses to a child in need. The Essilor Vision Foundation is committed to eliminating poor vision and its lifelong consequences and providing underprivileged individuals the opportunity to live a better life through better sight.

**EVF Cause Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrPAEM6dXIQ>



# Suggested Next Steps to Incorporate Vision in your Clinic

## Engage an Optometrist

It is imperative to source a local licensed Optometrist who is interested in charitable work. You may coordinate through community groups/chapters such as AOA (American Optometric Association)/State Optometric Associations, VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity) or Lions Clubs

## Allocate Space for Vision Examinations

Work with the Optometrist to review the most suitable needs and space allocation. Considerations may include Stationary or portable vision examination equipment, Routine or comprehensive examinations, Optometrist/Schedule availability and Volume expectations

## Procure Examination Equipment

It may be best to obtain equipment through your local Optometry volunteers and partners. However, depending on the needs addressed above, there are multiple opportunities to borrow or purchase examination equipment.

- Locally-sourced portable examination equipment can be obtained through the Optometrist's office or in some cases through a regional insurance provider on short-term basis
- Stationary and portable examination equipment can be ordered through major manufacturers such as Reichart, Lombard, Heine, etc.

## Costs

The equipment needed to conduct an examination may vary by state. Costs for equipment can vary from around \$5,000 to \$50,000 for an examination "lane", defined as the necessary equipment for each Optometrist. Equipment may be shared between clinics or among partners to maximize the investment. Your local Optometrist should be consulted in the type of equipment needed for your clinic.

- Equipment for an examination lane may include: Phoropter, Tripod, Acuity Monitor/Wall Chart, Handhelds (Ophthalmoscope, Retinoscope), Pupilometer, Slit Lamp, Autorefractor, Tonometer, Fundus Camera
- If volunteer Optometrists are able to utilize their own equipment from their local practice, purchase of a portable phoropter stand may be a less expensive option to incorporate their equipment into your community clinic; purchased for around \$900/each.

## Ongoing Operations

Once the Optometrist and equipment have been resourced and funded, groups such as frame and lens vendors may be able to assist you with ongoing needs for vision services.

- Local Optometrists or frame vendors may be able to donate a selection of frames from their stock
- Essilor Vision Foundation (EVF) offerings may include:
  - Lens and lab services are made available in a frame-to-come model, meaning that the prescription and frame selected by the patient, will be sent from the Optometrist to an Essilor laboratory for manufacture at no cost.
  - If your OD has a finish lab in their office, stock or uncut lenses can be ordered and edged on site.
  - Optical consumables can be ordered at a charity discount through EVF's OptiSource Portal. OptiSource carries a wide selection of optical supplies, equipment and accessories for Opticians, Optometrists and Wholesale Laboratories..
  - Discounted rates on frames from a variety of frame vendors. Rates are generally the same or better as compared to discount buying groups, with discounts 50-80% off standard pricing.

Payment may not be received from the patient or any other sources for in-kind services provided by EVF.

**Visit [evfusa.org](http://evfusa.org) under Engage/Partners to complete an initial inquiry to partner with EVF on charitable activities**