



The International Association of Lions Clubs

(Lions Clubs International)

New Jersey Lions Eye Glass Recycling Center
Operating Center at Katzenbach School for the Deaf
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Fact Sheet

Frequently asked questions--

What is NJLCURE?

New Jersey Correcting Uncorrected Refractive Error (NJLCURE) is a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) supported "pilot" program designed to provide Lions Clubs with a cost effective alternative to providing both an eye examination and a pair of custom eyeglasses to financially challenged people in their community.

Why is the NJLCURE Program needed?

Over the last several years the cost of an eye exam and eyeglasses has increased. At the same time primarily due to the economy, a greater number of family members have become either uninsured or underinsured. In some cases, individuals who become unemployed lose their benefits and although some may be near retirement, many have not reached the age to receive Social Security benefits which results in an inability to get affordable eye care. Simply put, the need is greater than ever to help those people who cannot afford an eye exam or eyeglasses on their own.

Why should Lions Clubs be involved in providing the "Gift of Sight"?

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA, and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since then Lions' have worked tirelessly to aid the blind and visually impaired both here at home and abroad to eradicate preventable blindness.

When does the program start and end?

The NJLCURE Pilot Program will start on April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014. After one year, NJLERC shall reevaluate the program to determine its overall effectiveness and, depending on level of support as well as adequate funding the program may be continued.

How can I help as a Lion Member or Club?

As a Lion, you can reach out to your local Optometrist or Eye Care Provider (ECP) to see if he/she is willing to provide an eye exam at no cost to someone less fortunate in your community. You can use this as an opportunity to educate them about Lions Clubs and our mission to "eradicate preventable blindness." Any questions about our expectations in the NJLCURE Program can be answered by them visiting our website at www.njlerc.org. By clicking on NJ/NY/PA CURE tab, each ECP can download an Instruction Sheet which outlines his/her responsibilities and also explains the process.

Individual Lions Clubs can also make donations to help support and sustain the NJLCURE Program. Local Clubs will also be asked to take a role in promoting, referring and "certifying financial eligibility of people requesting assistance for free eye exams and eyeglasses.

What are my responsibilities as a Club President or Secretary?

All Lions Clubs are eligible to participate in the pilot program. You will be asked to establish a working relationship with at least one (1) Optometrist or licensed Eye Care Provider (ECP) within your local community willing to perform a minimum of one eye exam per month. Once you have identified an ECP he/she should call (908)788-LION for a welcome package and instructions on how to proceed.

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As a Club President or Secretary you will be asked to be the first point of contact for someone in your community. Your participation may include expediting the application process and reviewing financial documents to ensure program eligibility. Once you have determined a person's financial need, just fax the appropriate form with your signature to (908)788-5467. Note: If you are already working with an Optometrist, just have them visit www.njlerc.org to download an Instruction Sheet under the NJ/NY/PA CURE Tab. Please make sure you download the "[Application for Lions Club with ECP](#)" if you have a working relationship with a licensed professional. The other application is for individuals who need services from a Vision USA ECP only!

Remember: The NJCURE Program is a pilot designed to save your local club money as we provide for those less fortunate in our local community. Therefore, it is suggested that your club will donate back to NJCURE a minimum amount to replenish the money used to provide the service. Should your club decide to do so, it will cost no less than \$19.00 and no more than \$34.00 total for each referral.

We ask that your club consider making a donation back to the program to help sustain the pilot into the future. However, if your club cannot afford to do so both the eye exam and eyeglasses will be provided at **no-charge**.

Where can I go to get an application?

Applications are available on-line by visiting www.njlerc.org. Click on NJ/NY/PA CURE Program and download an application. Completed applications *should be* forwarded with financial documentation to your local Lions Club President and/or Secretary for their review and certification. If your Lions Club already has an existing relationship with an Eye Care Provider (ECP) or Optometrist, click on the link "[Application Form for Lions Clubs with ECP](#)." If not, click on "[Application Form for Vision USA](#)."

Once the application form is completed, a Club President or Secretary should certify the eligibility of the client and fax it back to NJCURE Coordinator at (908)788-5467. If your Club is already working with an Optometrist, just fax the application to the above number and tell the Optometrist they can download the ECP Instruction Sheet by visiting www.njlerc.org. Again, both the procedure to follow and the prescription form can be downloaded on our website. If you need further assistance, please contact the NJCURE Coordinator, PCC Alan Brewer at (908)788-LION.

What should I do if I am a Local Club or Optometrist who wishes to opt-in to the program?

Please call (908)788-LION or email us at NJLERC@aol.com to inform us of your interest and you will receive a response back from the NJCURE Coordinator along with specific instructions on what to do next. An Eye Care Provider can also be directed to our website at www.njlerc.org to download an Instruction Sheet.

What should I do if I have additional questions about the NJCURE Program?

The pilot program is being administered through the NJ Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (501©3 non-profit organization). A dedicated phone line and fax number has been established to answer your questions and receive requests. Simply call (908)788-LION or email us at NJLERC@aol.com. Calls will be responded to within 24-48 hours. Our Fax Number is (908)788-5467.

Why would a local Optometrist want to participate in the NJCURE Pilot Program?

Many Optometrist's (ECP's) are good community service minded individuals willing to give their time to help and the NJCURE Program recognizes they are business people. By "Opting-In", Optometrist will only be asked to conduct a free eye exam(s) and forward a prescription with a new donated frame provided by NJLERC to the Essilor Lab in Warren, NJ. The custom eyeglasses will be edged with a Lions Lense and returned to be dispensed by the original ECP. The Essilor prescription form is also available on-line .

The biggest incentive is the Optometrist will not have to pay for the frame, lenses or edging fee thus saving them and the Lions Club money without marked up price for profit. All ECP's working with a Lions Club will be sent a frame kit upon assignment of their first referral. They should contact (908)788-5466 with questions.