

**National Universal Vision Screening for
Young Children Coordinating Center:**

Maternal and Child Health Grant to Prevent Blindness America

Ohio Coalition for Universal Vision Screening

Columbus, Ohio

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Our Vision Is Vision



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Overview

- Why Universal Vision Screening for Young Children?
- Background
- Overview of National Coordinating Center
- Next Steps



Universal Vision Screening for Young Children

Project Framework

- *Improving Children's Vision through Strong Partnerships, Sound Science, and Targeted Public Policy*

Overarching Vision

- *Full continuum of care for young children*
 - *Identify vision conditions in children early, linking to appropriate care, ensuring they receive the care they need*



Why Universal Vision Screening for Young Children?



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Vision Problems in Children

- Only 1 in 3 children in America has received eye care services before the age of six
- Currently, visual impairment in children is a condition that affects 5 to 10 percent of preschool age children
 - between 1 and 4 percent of these children have amblyopia,
 - 5 to 7 percent having refractive errors.^[1]
- Untreated amblyopia alone costs the United States nearly \$7.4 billion in earning power each year.

[1] Nelson H, Nygren P, Huffman L, Wheeler D, Hamilton A. *Screening for Visual Impairment in Children Younger than Age 5 Years: Update of the Evidence from Randomized Controlled Trials, 1999-2003, for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force*. May 2004. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/visionscr/vischup.htm>.



Prevent Works

- The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends:
 - screening to detect amblyopia, strabismus and defects in visual acuity in children younger than five years of age.
- The Partnership for Prevention found that pediatric vision screening is:
 - inexpensive,
 - treatment is effective and
 - it improves the quality of life of children.



Background



Vision



Partnerships & Leadership

Partnerships

- Vision community members have partnered with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to assess and prioritize Children's Vision Issues
 - *A National Call To Action for the Advancement of Children's Vision Health*

Next Step: Solutions

- Establishment of best practices, national standards, and model practices



National Coordinating Center Overview



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National Coordinating Center

- ***National Universal Vision Screening for Young Children Coordinating Center***
 - Established at Prevent Blindness America
 - Fall 2009
 - Support the development of public health infrastructure to promote and ensure a continuum of eye care for young children within the healthcare delivery system.



National Coordinating Center

Core programmatic areas

1. Provide national leadership in the development of the statewide vision screening and intervention programs.
2. Establishment of state and national Title V performance measures for vision screening; and develop national standards for state-based data collection and reporting.
3. Develop plan to assist states to advance best practice guidance and enhance existing vision screening activities.



National Coordinating Center: Structure

National Expert Panels

- The Coordinating Center will host
 - *National Expert Panel on Young Children's Vision Screening*
 - Workgroups of the Expert Panel
 - Data Collection & Reporting
 - Title V Performance Measures
 - Vision Screening Protocol



Statewide Efforts

State Partnerships

- Coordinate and enhance existing vision screening activities
 - **To develop and implement uniform statewide strategies for universal vision screening and advance best practice guidance to all states**
- States:
 - **Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Ohio**



National Coordinating Center Next Steps



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Next Steps

National Model: State leadership

- *Continuum of care for young children*
 - *Identify vision conditions in children early, link them to appropriate care, ensure they receive the care*
- *Meeting this goal requires coordination and collaboration at the state, local, and national level*



Next Steps

- Looking forward
 - State Leadership
 - NGOs
 - Families
 - State Title V
 - Providers
 - Educators
 - Service Providers
 - Public Health System
 - National Leaders
 - Federal Coordination
 - National Implementation



Thank You!

National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health

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