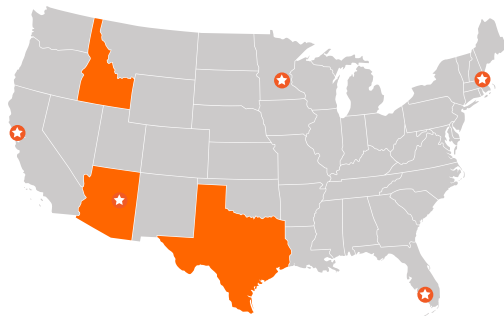


Better Vision Together

The Community of Practice, titled **Better Vision Together**, supports 8 state- and community-level teams with the goal of improving vision and eye health in at-risk, minority, and vulnerable populations of young children ages 0 to 5 years old. The teams engage with their peers via regular communication, receive technical assistance and education from experts, share resources and best practices, and identify solutions to shared issues that may include (but are not limited to) needed policy changes, evidence-based vision screening, improving access to eye care, parent/caregiver engagement, public awareness and education, and collection of vision data. The Better Vision Together project began in March 2019.



State teams: Arizona, Idaho and Texas

Community teams: Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco, CA; Haverhill, MA, Naples, FL and Overgaard, AZ

First year successes in providing vision screening services and creating system change to support a strong system of vision health for young children ages birth through 5 years

Arizona: Expanding access to quality screening by providing grants for photoscreening instruments to early childhood programs in schools, to health care providers and to community screeners to improve the number of young children who can complete a quality vision screening. Developed new data dashboard for Medicaid claim vision services in partnership with Arizona State University. Impacted policies and Standards of Practice for organizations conducting vision screening on young children (age 6 and younger) for using instrument-based screening.

Haverhill, MA: Planned and executed a vision screening training event for community preschool providers, staff of pediatric practices, and community members. Created consistent vision screening referral forms and follow-up practices and list of eye care providers.

Idaho: Initiation of pilots at 2 child care centers in Boise: Lions Club providing screenings for children ages 3 and 4. Provided vision health information at three upcoming conferences. Planning to request development of state vision screening guidelines for pre-school age children.

Minneapolis: Initiated partnerships with major health systems, local jurisdictions and collaboration with the UMN Center for Leadership in Maternal and Child Public Health. Developed tracking, referral feedback loops between education and health providers of services. Meeting with state legislative and executive staff to establish a vision health commission.

Overgaard, AZ: Developed a new vision screening consent form that includes parent education tool and permission for Lions Club to follow up on referrals. Initiating an improved system for tracking screening and referrals. Performing vision screening on American Indian children.

Naples, FL: Screened over 90% of preschool children in Collier County through pediatric offices; achieved referral completion averages of 70%. Purchased SPOT for an underserved Hispanic community with limited access to early childhood education and medical homes. Collaborating with charities and other organizations to initiate universal screenings for preschoolers. Educating policy makers and funders about the need for screening all preschool children and reaching 100% referral completion.

San Francisco: Focus on systems change. Not providing vision screening services. Initiated discussion with 2 major health care systems to improve data collection around vision screening. In these systems, there has been an increase in the number of children directly referred to an eye care professional, with appointment made some day as failed screening. Developed white paper for state public health officials; initiating discussion around development of state Title V performance measures for children's vision screening.

Texas: Initiated a vision screening program for a large pre-K program in Houston area; screened over 2,000 students. Increased engagement of partners in understanding and changing systems around the importance of parent/caregiver eye health education to help close the gap between children being screened and receiving necessary follow-up eye care.