

Healthy Eyes, Healthy Lives: Community Approaches to Children's Vision and Eye Health Webinar Resources

School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) Resources:

- **Vision Services**
 - **SBHA's Vision Services Overview**
 - The School-Based Health Alliance's vision services focus on ensuring students receive comprehensive eye care, which is crucial for both health and academic success. Despite school vision screenings, many children do not receive necessary eye exams or glasses, often due to barriers like access, financial constraints, or transportation. SBHCs address these challenges by integrating vision services, including exams, glasses, and disease treatment, directly at schools or through mobile services.
 - **Eyes on Access: Children's Vision and Eye Health in Community Health Centers, Part 1**
 - Prevent Blindness, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved and the School-Based Health Alliance provided the webinar for you to learn about common vision disorders among children, best practices for vision screening and assessment by primary healthcare providers (PCPs), and strategies for completing referrals for eyecare. This webinar is part of a two-part series for Community Health Center staff (including PCPs, nurses, referral coordinators, community health workers and others.) Participants will learn about common childhood vision disorders, evidence vision screening, and models of investment for pediatric eye care in community health centers.
 - **Eyes on Access: Children's Vision and Eye Health in Community Health Centers, Part 2**
 - Prevent Blindness, the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved, the National Association of Community Health Centers and the School-Based Health Alliance conducted this webinar to increase knowledge of four models of vision care for children in CHCs, enhance skills for identifying community partners for establishing children's vision services, and raise awareness of the importance of integration of primary (pediatric) care and eyecare in community health centers. This webinar is the second of a two-part series for Community Health Center staff (including PCPs, nurses, referral coordinators, community health workers and others). Participants will learn about common childhood vision disorders, evidence-based vision screening, and models of investment for pediatric eye care in community health centers.
- **Mobile Health**
 - **[School-Based Mobile Healthcare Toolkit](#)**

- The School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA), funded by the Leon Lowenstein Foundation, developed this toolkit to enhance the capacity of healthcare organizations to integrate high-quality, sustainable, mobile healthcare services with school-based healthcare. SBHA gathered information and resources for this toolkit from many sources. We aimed to learn from and share the work of the school-based mobile healthcare field through key informant interviews and focus groups. We learned about mobile health terminology, models of care, staffing, funding, operationalization, school integration, intervention, and elements of collaboration with schools and communities. References to their content are throughout this toolkit, indicated by the phrase “key informants.” Key informants represent a variety of geographic locations, coming from the following states: Ala., Ark., Ariz., Calif., Conn., Fla., Ga., Ill., N.J., Ohio, Texas, Wash., and W.Va. Recognizing that not every community has the space within their schools, the resources, or the staff to establish and maintain a brick-and-mortar school-based health center (SBHC), mobile healthcare can play a vital role in addressing potential gaps in service. Mobile healthcare units can travel to different schools and communities to provide health services on-site, complementing and expanding the reach of SBHCs, especially in rural or underserved areas

Prevent Blindness:

- [National Center for Children’s Vision and Eye Health](#) at [Prevent Blindness](#) Find fact sheets, infographics, and more. See past children’s vision webinars on the [YouTube channel](#).
- Sign up for our children’s vision newsletter [here](#).
- See archived webinars on vision services in Community Health Centers at <https://www.healthcenterinfo.org/results/?Combined=eyes+on+access>
- Find eye health education materials for parents of younger children at [Small Steps for Big Vision: An Eye Health Information Tool Kit for Parents and Caregivers - National Center \(preventblindness.org\)](#)
- Request technical assistance on vision services at school-based health centers [here](#).
- Upcoming Webinar: November 6, 2024. Closing the Gap: Helping Families Remove Barriers to Eye Care After Receiving Referrals from Vision Screenings. Registration coming soon. Information [here](#).

Association of Clinicians for the Underserved

- **Please Take ACU's 2024 Health Center Eye Care Workforce Survey**
 - Eye care is a growing field within CHCs, but little is known about the health center eye care workforce as few state and national surveys include these roles in their data. To help fill this gap, ACU's [2024 Health Center Eye Care Workforce Survey](#) aims to identify strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement among the eye care workforce. If you are an optometrist or ophthalmologist, we encourage you to complete the [survey](#) and help contribute to the future of eye care in CHCs nationwide.
- **New Resource ACU Resource -- FQHC Eye Care Services Billing and Coding: Tips & FAQs**
 - There is currently no standardized model for billing eye care services within health centers. This [resource](#) will help both new and seasoned optometrists as well as operations

and billing teams gain a better understanding of commonly used CPTs and frequently asked questions.

- [FQHC and Community Optometry](#)
 - This Facebook group provides a place for optometrists working in community health centers to connect and discuss the unique challenges they face.
- [Integrating Eye Health and Vision Care for Underserved Populations into Primary Care Settings, 2020](#)
 - This publication by the American Optometric Association and the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved provides information about the current need and best practices for delivering health care services as part of integrated care models.
- **Eye Care Provider Recruitment and Retention Resources**
 - The eyecare field has grown by leaps and bounds within community health centers as the total number of ophthalmologists, optometrists, and vision care personnel has nearly tripled since 2014. Despite this growth, still less than a third of all community health centers nationwide provide any sort of vision services, and less than 3% of the 31.5 million patients accessed vision services in 2023. A major barrier health centers face when establishing and/or expanding eye and vision services is the recruitment of eye care providers.
- To address barriers to recruiting providers, ACU provides free job postings for FQHCs and Look-Alikes via its Career Center. ACU is also scheduling a two-part webinar series for November/December that focuses on recruiting and retaining a thriving eye care workforce. Part 1 will equip community health center leaders with knowledge of optometry training programs and strategies to engage optometry schools in recruiting eye care providers. Part 2 will educate optometrists on the skills and knowledge needed to set them up for success and to become community health center leaders. Email ACU's Program Director, Luke Ertle, at lertle@clinicians.org or sign up for [ACU's newsletter](#).
- **Upcoming Webinar on Team-Based Retinal Care for Patients with Diabetes**
 - Join Renaye James Healthcare Advisors on November 14th from 1 to 2 pm ET for a webinar entitled, "[Advances in Team-Based Retinal Eye Care for Patients with Diabetes.](#)" Annual retinal eye exams are recommended for all individuals with diabetes to detect diabetes related eye disease. This webinar will share the possible eye complications due to diabetes, testing advances, and the role of team-based care in the management of diabetes retinal eye disease. This webinar aligns with the Health Center Performance Improvement domain of Quality, Patient Care, and Safety as it addresses evidence-based practices in the management of Diabetes.
 - **Presenters:** Christina Mister, MS, BSN, RN, Director, Clinical Services, Renaye James Healthcare Advisors & Tareq Nabhan, O.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis