



4141 28th Ave S., Fargo, ND 58104



visionstart.org

Dear Eye Clinic Professional,

Imagine a child eagerly attending the first day of kindergarten, but they're unable to follow along due to an undiagnosed vision condition. This not only makes it difficult to learn but hinders a child's fullest potential to succeed.

60% of problem learners have undetected vision problems; 1 in 4 kids entering kindergarten have vision problems; & 80% of everything a child learns relies on vision. Undiagnosed vision problems can delay child development, academic growth, and lead to permanent vision loss. Early detection from an eye doctor is critical to treat lazy eye, astigmatism, and cancer.

Before age 6, it is recommended that children have 3 eye exams, yet 50% of these children have never received an eye exam, and 24% of parents wait for their child to have symptoms. For many North Dakota families-in-need, a significant barrier to receiving vision care is cost.

Vision Start is a new North Dakota program supported by the Optometric Foundation of North Dakota and generous donors to provide comprehensive eye exams to children in need ages 4-5 years at no cost to their family. According to the last census, there are 20,540 children ages 4-5 in North Dakota.

Together through the Vision Start program, we will eliminate lazy eye in North Dakota and *help kids see a brighter future.*

Will you join us? If you're interested, please review the attached Agreement, sign, and return by mail: 4141 28th Ave., S., Fargo, ND 58104 or email: mike@ofnd.org.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B C Beattie".

Brian Beattie, OD
Chairman of the Board
Optometric Foundation of North Dakota

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike".

Michael J. Little, MBA
Executive Director
Optometric Foundation of North Dakota
701-356-3143 | mike@ofnd.org

P.S. Together we can help kids see a brighter future in North Dakota!

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
OPTOMETRIC FOUNDATION OF NORTH DAKOTA, INC. (FOUNDATION)
AND**

_____ (EYE CLINIC)

A. PURPOSE

This Agreement has been made and entered into between the Optometric Foundation of North Dakota, Inc. (hereafter, “Foundation”) and _____, (hereafter, “Eye Clinic”) on _____ (Date) for Vision Start, a program designed to “*Help kids see a brighter future*” (hereafter, “Vision Start”).

B. BACKGROUND

Imagine a child eagerly attending the first day of kindergarten, but they’re unable to follow along due to an undiagnosed vision condition. This not only makes it difficult to learn but hinders a child’s fullest potential to succeed.

60% of problem learners have undetected vision problems; 1 in 4 kids entering kindergarten have vision problems; & 80% of everything a child learns relies on vision. Undiagnosed vision problems can delay child development, academic growth, and lead to permanent vision loss. Early detection from an eye doctor is critical to treat lazy eye, astigmatism, and cancer.

Before age 6, it is recommended that children have 3 eye exams, yet 50% of these children have never received an eye exam, and 24% of parents wait for their child to have symptoms. For many North Dakota families-in-need, a significant barrier to receiving vision care is cost. Vision Start is a program supported by the Foundation and generous donors to provide comprehensive eye exams to North Dakota children-in-need ages 4-5 years at no cost to their family. According to the last census, there are 20,540 children ages 4-5 in North Dakota.

C. GOAL

Eliminate amblyopia (lazy eye) in North Dakota. Together through the Vision Start program, we can *help kids see a bright future*.

D. PROCESS

- a. A Parent/Guardian of a child age 4-5 first learns about Vision Start through pre-k programs, ND Head Start, Lions Club screening events, the participating clinic, Public Health, Country Social Services, social media advertisements online, and word-of-mouth. Messaging of promotional materials will direct parents to visionstart.org for more information and to determine eligibility.

- b. The Parent/Guardian will complete an online screening form at visionstart.org to determine eligibility by meeting the following criteria:
 - i. Child is age 4-5 years.
 - ii. Child's family income is at or below 300% of current federal poverty level as defined annually by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and may be found at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2020-poverty-guidelines> & on our online screening form.
- c. If eligible, the Parent/Guardian will select among participating Eye Clinics for contact information to schedule an appointment. The Parent/Guardian shall be responsible for contacting the Eye Clinic to schedule an appointment.
- d. The Foundation shall send an automatically generated referral email to the selected Eye Clinic, the Parent/Guardian, and the Foundation. This email shall include a patient-specific/unique referral number.
- e. When the Parent/Guardian shows up for their child's visit at the Eye Clinic, they will reference Vision Start and their referral number. The Eye Clinic shall not collect a co-payment for this eye exam.
- f. Once the exam is complete, the Eye Clinic shall bill the Foundation (no more frequently than monthly) by emailing an invoice with the patient's referral number.
- g. The Foundation shall pay the Clinic within 120 days of receiving the invoice.

E. VISION START CONTACT INFORMATION

Foundation:

Organization: Optometric Foundation of North Dakota, Inc.
Primary Contact: Mike Little, Executive Director
Street: 4141 28th Ave S
City, State, Zip: Fargo, ND 58104
Phone: 701-356-3143
Email: mike@ofnd.org
Tax ID / EIN: 77-0599827

Eye Clinic:

Organization: _____
Website: _____
Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Tax ID / EIN: _____

F. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Eye Clinic shall:

- a. Provide the Foundation with an email to send referrals and keep the Foundation updated with any changes to this address:
 - i. Primary Contact's Name: _____
 - ii. Primary Contact's Email: _____
- b. Keep track of Foundation referral emails to correctly verify eligible patients.
- c. Perform a comprehensive eye exam for any patient ages 4-5 years who has been referred by the Foundation and provided with a referral number.
- d. Send the Foundation an Invoice to receive reimbursement for Vision Start patients.

The Foundation shall:

- a. Create and distribute Vision Start promotional materials.
- b. Maintain an online screening form to determine eligibility on visionstart.org
- c. Reimburse Eye Clinic for each comprehensive eye exam for eligible children in need ages 4-5 years at a rate of \$75.00 / exam or a lesser amount of \$_____ / exam. Limit one exam per individual. Reimbursement shall be processed within 120 days of receiving an invoice.
- d. The Foundation's intent is to provide funding for all children in need of comprehensive eye exams. However, the Foundation's funds may be limited, especially in the first years of the program. The Foundation will notify Eye Clinic if all funds are exhausted for a particular year and when the program when recommence.

G. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Agreement shall be effective from the date of the final signature and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party with 30 days' written notice to the other party. Representatives from each party will review the terms of this Agreement at least annually from the date of the final signature. Any additions or modifications to the terms of this Agreement or the roles and responsibilities of either party must be agreed to by both parties. Such changes shall be incorporated in written amendments to this Agreement.

H. TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this Agreement upon a 30 days written notice to each other.

I. SIGNATURES

The undersigned have read this Agreement and will abide as outlined within:

Foundation

Signature

Written Name

Title

Date

Eye Clinic

Signature

Written Name

Title

Date

List of All Participating Providers in Eye Clinic (*Full Names*)
