



# Community Based Adult Vision Projects

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# Introduction

- Half of all blindness can be prevented
- Leading cause of vision impairment and blindness in the U.S. is largely due to age-related eye diseases (AREDS)
- AREDS include Macular Degeneration, Cataract, Diabetic Retinopathy, and Glaucoma
- Expected number of Americans with age-related eye disease and resulting vision impairment will double by the year 2030



# The Statistics

## VISION PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment and Age-Related Eye Disease in America

1,046,920 people age 40 and older are blind

3,406,028 people age 40 and older are visually impaired

20,476,040 people age 40 and older have cataracts

2,227,485 people age 40 and older have glaucoma

5,353,233 people age 18 and older have diabetic  
retinopathy

1,651,335 people age 50 and older have AMD



## **PBA/CDC Cooperative Agreement**

In 2004, Prevent Blindness America was awarded a grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop an Adult Blindness and Vision Loss Prevention Program.

## Program Highlights

- Affiliate Vision Projects
- Symposia
- Web-Based Database
- NACDD Collaborative
- Primary Care Project

**PBA/CDC  
Cooperative  
Agreement**

# Community Based Adult Vision Pilot Projects

- Three year projects targeted adults 40 years of age and older
- Projects focused on identifying adults at risk of vision problems through screenings and follow-up, risk assessment, and distribution of education materials
- Affiliates followed Prevent Blindness certified adult vision screening protocols

## Pilot Projects cont.

- Grantees expanded their reach by partnering with varied public and/or private partners (local eye health professionals, community health centers, state agencies, etc.)
- The project period ended December 2006 - is being assessed toward the creation of model community vision programs



# Prevent Blindness Georgia: Aging Eye Disease Awareness Project in Partnership with Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Offices

*Objective: To develop a comprehensive program to educate staff about aging eye diseases and promote self-sustaining vision clinics within the senior centers organized by the AAA Atlanta Regional Commission.*



## Implementation

- Provided vision screening training opportunities to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- Offered onsite vision clinics at senior centers within the ARC
- Contract doctors provided services at the vision clinics and (mostly) volunteer doctors provided follow up care



# Clarkston Senior Center Vision Clinic



## Two Phases

- First phase: CDC sub-grant funding supported vision clinics in one or more senior centers
- Second phase: AAA and/or the senior center secured funds for additional vision clinics

## Results

- 48 individuals trained to offer adult vision screening
- 46 vision clinics held
- 87 eye care providers donated time and/or services
- 723 adults served
- 611 participants received eye exam
- 602 participants received eyeglasses
- 187 participants referred on for further services
- Diagnoses: 93 Cataract, 63 Glaucoma, 12 AMD, 11 Diabetic retinopathy, 18 Other
- 17 Agency partnerships

# Pilot 1

- Vision clinics raise awareness of AREDs and need for routine eye care among senior center staff and leadership, seniors and families
- Providing “vision clinic day” at senior centers motivated staff to seek funds for additional clinics
- Funding secured by AAA for more than 15 clinics
- Many centers expect to make the vision clinics an annual event
- Select AAA areas vision clinics are becoming an annual budgeted item for senior centers rather than add-on service



# Prevent Blindness Ohio: Federally Qualified Health Centers Primary Care Project

## *Objectives:*

- *Train and equip primary healthcare providers to conduct adult vision screenings and offer risk assessment*
- *Establish new and enhanced comprehensive vision care services at selected Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)*
- *Provide donated professional eye care*

*Prevent Blindness Ohio focused its efforts on the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc.'s (CNHC) primary health care sites*

## Implementation

- Equipped providers to implement adult vision history and risk assessment questionnaire as part of primary health care
- Established low cost eyeglass dispensary at East Central Vision Clinic
- Assessed most effective method for achieving increased access to comprehensive eye care (including vision screenings, eye exams, and follow up care) for high risk adult populations



# East Central Vision Clinic Eyeglass Dispensary





## Results

- Trained and certified 324 adult care providers
- Trained and certified 163 primary care providers
- Distributed 175 sets of Adult Vision Screening Equipment
- Trained 27 Adult primary care providers on new Vision History and Assessment tool

## Results cont.

- Facilitated approximately 36,335 adult vision screenings as a result of training and certifying
- Helped increase staffing (one full time Optician and one optical assistant)
- Established externship program for an Optometric Resident at the East Central Neighborhood Health Center

## Results cont.

- Provided 1,538 pairs of eyeglasses at eyeglass dispensary
- Established Vision Care Outreach Program in Toledo - provides access to donated eye exams and low/no cost glasses
- Helped identify and secure treatment for the following in new Toledo program: 18 Amblyopia, 117 Cataract, 25 Diabetic Retinopathy, 68 Glaucoma, 3 Keratoconus, 10 AMD, 9 retinal tears, 3 Retinitis Pigmentosa, and 12 Strabismus

## Pilot 2

- Working with primary care providers to offer vision-related services allowed a larger number of individuals to become aware of their risk for ARED and receive a vision screening
- Through collaboration, organizations can establish adult vision services within FQHCs
- Establish a relationship with area clinics, available local colleges of Optometry, members of vision industry who are interested in philanthropic involvement, and other public health agencies
- By offering vision care within the FQHC setting, the need for additional appointments involving transportation is eliminated



## Prevent Blindness Tennessee: Senior Sight Outreach Vision Screening and Follow-Up Clinics

### *Objective:*

*To provide public/professional education, conduct community vision screenings and offer follow-up vision clinics, and to build partnerships among the agencies that provide for an uninsured or underinsured population.*

*Prevent Blindness Tennessee's target population was adults age 40 years of age and older living below the poverty level in the underserved four counties of southwest Tennessee which included Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood and Madison.*

## Implementation

- Offered public/professional education on ARED
- Trained health department and FQHCs' clinic personnel to use Diabetic Retinopathy Risk Assessment and PBA Risk Assessment Screening forms
- Provided adult vision screenings
- Offered follow up appointments for individuals who failed the screening and met SSO eligibility guidelines

## Implementation cont.

- Clinics held at three Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Individuals who failed screening but ineligible to participate at the clinic were advised to see their eye doctor or connected with Eye Care America
- Participants were invited to come back with a prescription for low-cost glasses



# East Jackson Family Medical Clinic Vision Screening





# Results

- Trained 12 volunteers to conduct vision screenings
- Held 23 screening events and 11 eye exam clinics
- Served a total of 876 adults at vision events
- Screened 664 adults and referred 627 adults for an eye exam
- Referred 620 adults due to risk factors and/or 567 for visual acuity and/or 116 for visual fields

## Results cont.

- Confirmed 525 referred adults received an eye exam (149 received exam through SSO)
- Confirmed 331 adults received eyeglasses
- Confirmed diagnoses and initiation of treatment of additional eye conditions for 31 adults

## Pilot 3

- Coordination of services and resources, vision screenings and follow-up clinics create opportunities to expand reach
- Approach requires eligibility guideline so highest need receive donated services first
- Important to provide opportunities such as utilization of national programs (Eye Care America) and a low-cost eye glass program for individuals who do not qualify for an in-kind eye exam
- Success = Building relationships with eye doctors in community of the FQHC (provide free exams at the follow up clinics)



# Conclusion

- Cooperative agreement between PBA and the CDC has resulted in three demonstration projects that can be replicated in other states
- Insight gained by these three affiliates has helped guide projects among seven other Prevent Blindness affiliates
- These services are in high demand – especially in underserved communities
- As Baby Boomers grow older so does the need for education, outreach, vision screening and comprehensive eye care



# Questions?