



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Telephone (775) 684-4000 • Fax (775) 684-4010
<http://dhhs.nv.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Steve George, Public Information Officer
(775) 684-4024; sgeorge@dhhs.nv.gov

VISION CARE BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS OF NEVADA SENIOR Rx AND DISABILITY Rx NOW AVAILABLE

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that enrollment in the State's Senior Rx and Disability Rx vision benefit program is off and running, with many eligible Nevadans already taking advantage of the opportunity of enjoying better eye care. About 3,500 present Senior Rx and Disability Rx members are eligible for the vision benefit.

Senior Rx began providing benefits in 2000, Disability Rx in 2006. The programs were designed to provide low-income seniors and those with a verifiable disability with assistance in meeting the cost of prescription medications. The long-awaited vision care enhancement received final approval from the Legislature's Interim Finance Committee in January 2008, and a contract with an eye care plan was authorized by the Board of Examiners in March. The eye care plan, VSP Vision Care for Life, was selected after a nationwide search last year.

Under the plan, eligible members may receive an eye exam, frames, and lenses once every 12 months, with a co-payment of \$25. If a member prefers, the benefits may be applied to contact lenses. Participation in the VSP Plan also provides access to discounts on options such as anti-reflective coatings, progressive lenses, and sunglasses.

Eligibility for vision benefits is based on income. Members of Senior Rx and Disability Rx whose household income is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) qualify for the enhancement. In 2008, the annual income limit is \$15,600 for single people and \$21,000 for married couples.

Members must also meet regular program requirements:

- One-year of continuous Nevada residency prior to the date of application.
- Senior Rx members must be age 62 or older.
- Disability Rx members must be ages 18 through 61 with a verifiable disability.

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Senior Rx and Disability Rx members who are not eligible for Medicare participate in a cost-sharing arrangement with an annual benefit limit of \$5,100. Members who are eligible for Medicare receive help with the monthly premium for their Part D plan and may also use the program as secondary payer during the Part D coverage gap. Enrollment in the prescription portion of the program is a prerequisite for accessing the vision benefit.

Potential applicants who do not meet the income limit for vision benefits may still meet income requirements for the prescription portion of the program. Currently, the annual income limit for a single person is \$24,561; \$32,742 for a married couple.

For more information, or to download or complete an interactive application, go to <http://dhhs.nv.gov/SeniorRx.htm> or <http://dhhs.nv.gov/DisabilityRx.htm>, or call toll-free 1-866-303-6323.

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