

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Lions of Illinois Foundation is to create a permanent vehicle for the delivery of programs and services to people with vision and hearing needs.

Mission Statement

The Lions of Illinois Foundation exists to assist in the general improvement of the quality of life of those in Illinois having unmet needs. It is the specific mission of the Foundation to provide quality programs and services to the people of Illinois for the detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of visual and hearing impairments. The Foundation, solely, or in conjunction with the Lions/Lioness Clubs, Foundations, and other organizations, shall provide its assistance through grant processes or delivered through direct or indirect programs and services.

Why the Lions Help

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is a nonprofit organization with members throughout the state of Illinois. Since 1925, the Lions have taken the challenge given to them by Helen Keller. Addressing the Lions at their convention she urged them to become:

"Knights of the Blind in the Crusade Against Blindness."

Funding for Programs & Services provided by the Lions of Illinois Foundation is provided through the generosity of Lions Clubs throughout the state as well as annual fundraisers such as Candy Day and Sight & Sound Sweepstakes. Thank you for your support!

Questions? Email us at: LIOffice@lifnd.org

Lions of Illinois Foundation

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2025

Lions of Illinois Foundation

Serving People with Vision & Hearing Needs Since 1974.



Mobile Screening Unit for Vision & Hearing



Since 1965, Illinois Lions have traveled throughout the state offering *FREE* vision screenings to the public. In 1983, a Hearing Screening Unit was added to the Mobile Fleet. While the focus in those early years was to screen the eyes for

Glaucoma, the vision screenings done today screen the Retina for damage due to the effects of diabetes and other retinal diseases.

TODAY, the Lions of Illinois Foundation Mobile Screening Unit screens for both vision and hearing loss. It can be seen traveling to various community events throughout the state from March through October.

To find a *FREE* screening event in your community, please visit our online events calendar at: lionsofillinoisfoundation.org/mobile-screenings/



Retinal Screenings • Hearing Screenings • Children's Vision Screenings

Vision Screenings

The leading cause of vision loss is brought on by unidentified and untreated diabetic related eye disease, specifically Diabetic Retinopathy and Macular Degeneration. **EARLY DETECTION IS KEY.** The Lions of Illinois Foundation's Mobile Screening Unit offers *FREE* retinal screenings used to detect the following eye diseases:

Diabetic Retinopathy:



(What you see)

Macular Degeneration:



(What you see)

Detached Retina:



(What you see)

Retinitis Pigmentosa:



(What you see)

SYMPTOMS OF DIABETIC RELATED EYE DISEASE:

- Blurry, Wavy or Double Vision.
- Frequently Changing Vision – Sometimes from Day to Day.
- Dark Areas or Vision Loss.
- Pain or Pressure in One or Both Eyes
- Trouble Seeing Colors
- Spots or Dark Strings (also called floaters)
- Flashes of Light
- Difficulty Seeing in the Dark
- Eye Pain or Redness

It is recommended that you see an ophthalmologist or an eye care professional for a yearly eye exam.

Hearing Screenings

DID YOU KNOW? Hearing loss affects approximately 15 million Americans. The Lions of Illinois Foundation's Mobile Screening Unit offers *FREE* hearing screenings to individuals age 10 and older. Some types of hearing loss are preventable by healthy hearing behaviors and awareness of hearing damage risks.



AMTAS-Flex Audiometry Screening Tablet



HEARING LOSS FACTS:

- 31.5 Million Americans have hearing loss
- Prevalence of hearing loss increases with age
- ~1.4 Million Children in America also have hearing loss
- ~3 in 1,000 Infants are born with severe to profound hearing loss

TYPES OF HEARING LOSS:

Conductive

- Occurs as a result of damage or disease in the outer and/or middle ear
- May be medically treated and resolved

Sensorineural

- Occurs as a result of damage or disease to the inner ear (cochlea)
- Generally cannot be medically resolved; treated with amplification

Conductive

- Fluid
- Foreign Objects
- Allergies
- Ruptured Eardrum
- Impacted Earwax

Mixed

- Genetic Disorders
- Infections
- Head Trauma

Sensorineural

- Aging
- Noise Damage
- Drug Side-Effects
- Auditory Tumors
- Blast/Explosion