



**Mission:**

Hope Alliance is a non-profit bringing vision care and eyeglasses to people worldwide. Our mission is to provide sustainable support to under-served communities by providing vision and hope for all.

**Project Name:** Summit Women's Vision Care

**Community Need:**

Hope Alliance already provides the primary care needed to keep the eyes and vision of the uninsured women and girls in our community healthy. Our caseload in Summit has grown by 2,289% in just five years and continues to grow. We work within our community's powerful network of schools, nonprofits, and community organizations performing vision screenings, hosting clinics, and providing vision care education. While we host clinics pop-up clinics in a variety of local venues, our primary service location is the People's Health Clinic. At PHC, our patient population is over 90% Hispanic/Latino with approximately 61% being female. Hispanic/Latina women face significant vision issues.

Women's eye health deserves attention. Here's why:

- Women account for two-thirds of blindness and visual impairment.
- Women live longer than men so they are more susceptible to developing eye diseases, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.
- Women are more likely to suffer from autoimmune conditions like Lupus or Sjögren's Syndrome, which often come with troubling visual side effects.
- Women are impacted by issues men don't worry about, including the hormonal surges of pregnancy causing blurred vision, preeclampsia, and diabetes.
- Women are affected by the profound shifts of menopause, leading to dry eye syndrome.
- Women are more likely to encounter refractive errors such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism, which can be treated with prescription glasses.

Hispanic/Latino eye health ALSO deserves attention. Here's why:

- Hispanics/Latinos have the highest vision loss and blindness caused by eye disease.
- Hispanic/Latinos have some form of vision problems. 80% report to the point where vision issues disrupt their everyday life.
- Hispanics/Latinos of advanced age have higher rates of ocular hypertension, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration.
- Hispanic/Latino socioeconomic factors, including lack of access to eye-health education, financial resources, insurance, and health care, prevent treatment of eye diseases in the early stages of development.

- Hispanics/Latinos are unlikely to see a doctor when they have health problems. 40% of those with vision concerns visited a doctor within the past year.
- Hispanics/Latinos with eye disease are unlikely to be diagnosed. 60% of those with blinding eye conditions go undetected, leading to visual impairment and blindness.

**Project Overview:**

To continue to serve the growing needs of our community, we must expand our existing Summit Community Vision Care program by adding additional medical staff. Funding will:

- Provide regular eye exams. Hope Alliance hosts free vision screenings in our community and free eye exams for community members who don't have access to vision care.
- Provide prescription eyeglasses. Hope Alliance delivers free prescription eyeglasses to all patients when indicated.
- Provide protective eyewear. Hope Alliance offers free protective eyewear to all patients regularly exposed to dangerous eye conditions at work or play.
- Provide sunglasses. Hope Alliance gives free UV sunglasses to each patient to protect their eyes from ultraviolet rays to reduce the risk of eye disease.
- Provide Medical referrals to specialists. Hope Alliance writes medical referrals to specialists practicing at People's Health Clinic, the Moran Eye Center, and other specialists in the greater Salt Lake Area.

**Impact:**

In the short term, hundreds of women in Summit will receive the vision care they need to stay healthy. They will enjoy the benefit of prescription glasses to help them in their day-to-day work and play. In the long-term, it is a much bigger picture, and it is much more profound. Receiving something as simple and ubiquitous as a pair of glasses is often a profound interrupter of a tragic but common domino effect. When people can't see, they cannot fully engage with family and friends and often lose critical human connection and sense of belonging. What follows can be the inability to connect in the classroom with teachers or with supervisors and colleagues at work. Reading and taking part in activities becomes difficult or impossible. It can ultimately lead to education and employment below a person's true capability. At its direst, it leads to life-long dependence. Hope Alliance works to ensure that all community members have the vision that they need to succeed.

**Budget**

Summit Women's Vision Care  
Program Budget

	2022	2023	2024	Total
<b>Labor</b>				
Program Coordinator Wages	\$12,500	\$15,000	\$17,500	\$45,000
<b>Total Labor</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>