Vision plays an important role in children’s physical, cognitive, and social development. The economic costs of children’s vision disorders are significant, amounting to $10 billion annually in the United States.

More than 1/5 preschool-age children enrolled in Head Start have a vision disorder. More than 1/3 of Mexican American and non-Hispanic Black adolescents have inadequately corrected refractive error.

Children’s vision and eye health MUST become a national priority so that children can grow up with their healthiest possible vision and realize their full potential across their lifetime.

Support the EDVI Act today!

For more information, please contact Sara Brown, Director of Government Affairs, sbrown@preventblindness.org, 312.363.6031

Call for Change

The Early Detection of Vision Impairments for Children Act of 2024 (EDVI) will establish state-based EDVI programs across the United States to facilitate early detection and intervention of vision impairments in preschool and school-aged children.

The goal of the EDVI Act is to ensure that every child in the United States with a vision problem is identified and connected to appropriate eye care, to support early childhood professionals, school nurses, and health care providers with updated and evidence-based early detection methods, including vision screening, that are complete with established systems of referral to care and follow-up protocols to ensure that children who need eye care receive treatment before a vision problem leads to potential vision loss.

The EDVI Act will accomplish this work through grants to states and communities from HRSA for use in identifying, improving, and implementing approaches for the early detection of visual impairments; create a national technical assistance coordinating center to provide direct assistance to states and communities looking to improve systems of care; and foster collaboration across key federal agencies within HHS and the Department of Education.