



The Eye Center of North Florida - Laser and Surgery Center Charity Care- Economic Hardship Application Process

It is the policy of The Eye Center of North Florida-Laser and Surgery Center to provide essential eye care services regardless of the patient's ability to pay. Economic hardship discounts are awarded depending upon family income and size.

For the purpose of assessing such discounts, The Eye Center of North Florida-Laser and Surgery Center uses the HHS Poverty Guidelines for the year in which services are being rendered.

Every patient requesting charity care write-offs must complete an **Economic Hardship Application** and attach any and all applicable documentation. Refunds of amounts paid prior to application approval will not be made.

Any discounts awarded will be applied to all services received at The Eye Center of North Florida-Laser and Surgery Center, but not those services which are purchased from an outside provider, such as laboratory testing, drugs, x-rays, interpretation and similar services.

The approval of an application will not be considered as an approval for any or all future accounts. Each application will require new verification information to be considered for charity for each date of service. If the applicant is married, a spouse signature is required on the application. ***Under current law, Medicare deductible and coinsurance amounts are not eligible for charity care.***

Any omissions on the application could delay/deny approval of any discounts awarded. All information contained in the application will remain confidential and will be used solely for the purpose of determining Economic Hardship. The Eye Center of North Florida-Laser and Surgery Center reserves the right to reverse charity care approval if the information provided by the patient in the application is later determined to be falsified.

To receive an Economic Hardship Application form, please contact the office at 850-784-3937. Any questions regarding the **Economic Hardship Application** process should be directed to Kathi M. Nichols, Operations Manager.