

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Sight Savers America	Federal Tax ID#: 30-0188234	Are you a 501(3)(c) charity? Yes	
Address: 337 Business Circle	City: Birmingham	State: Alabama	Zip Code: 35124
Website: www.sightsaversamerica.org	Fax: (205) 991-4876		

Head Of Organization

Name: Jeffery L. Haddox	Title: President & CEO/Founder
E-Mail Address: jhaddox@sightsaversamerica.org	Phone: (205) 266-2697

Application Contact

Name: Lisa Costanzo	Title: Grant Writer	E-Mail Address: lcostanzo@sightsaversamerica.org	Phone: (205) 266-2697
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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation

Year	Funding \$
2019	\$5,000
Total	\$5,000

Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$20,000	\$159,950	\$4,067,350

Mission Statement:
Sight Savers America's mission is to identify and secure treatment for unmet vision and health needs.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
Low Vision Program

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
10/01/2020	09/30/2021

Program / Project Description:

Low vision afflicts individuals of every race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, and is dramatically more common in elderly populations. Data show that 6.7% of adults over the age of 65 have low vision (Cornell University 2014). Individuals with low vision are often unable to perform basic daily activities such as reading, writing, preparing meals, or even recognizing their loved ones' faces. This creates drastic disadvantages both at home and in the classroom or workplace. Low vision is also linked with increased risks of falls and fractures (CDC 2001), depression (American Found. for the Blind 2006), and difficulty identifying medications (American Found. for the Blind 2017) in the elderly. For children, low vision causes drastic disadvantages during academically and developmentally pivotal childhood years.

Low vision is not correctable with eyeglasses, contact lenses or surgery, and afflicts approximately 1 of every 1,000 individuals regardless of gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Vision assistive technology is vital to improving quality of life for a person with low vision by maximizing remaining vision and improving functional abilities. Unfortunately, the high price of high-tech vision aids such as Electronic Video Magnifiers (EVMs, which retail at \$2,595 per unit, and are not covered by health insurance), prohibits most families from purchasing the necessary devices for use at home. Data show that approximately one in four individuals with low vision will qualify for an EVM through this program. Eligibility is determined by an in-depth evaluation of the individual's low vision, as well as an assessment of the financial standing of the family conducted by SSA. All of those served through this program will be lower income and of varying ethnicities, and most will either be children (5-19) or adults 65+.

SSA has distributed over 3,000 low vision assistive devices in the homes of individuals with low vision in 15 states (AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, LA, MS, NC, OH, SC, TN, and TX). Through this program, SSA has successfully eliminated the backlog of children in need of high-tech vision aids in the entire state of Alabama, the Florida Panhandle, 50% of the entire state of Texas (including 100% of the San Antonio metro and Texas Hill Country areas), as well as over 75% of Mississippi, Louisiana, the Atlanta and Memphis metro areas and significant portions of several other states. In 2016, SSA was able to meet our program goal of eradicating the backlog of children with this need in the Greater San Antonio and Texas Hill Country areas. To maintain this success, SSA will continue to serve a smaller amount of children newly referred annually who may have aged into the program, moved into the area, or developed new or worsening eye conditions since our most recent clinic. In response to this success, SSA has also transitioned to serve persons of all ages with this need in areas where all children with low vision have been served. We began serving adults in the Texas Hill Country counties in 2015, and in 2017 we began accepting referrals for adults with this need in the Greater San Antonio area.

SSA has now provided vision aids for 152 individuals in the San Antonio area. We are so appreciative of the Gordon Hartman Foundation's past support which has helped to make this possible. One of the women served in San Antonio through this program, an elderly woman named Ann, sent a thank-you note for the EVM she received. She stated: "This is literally a gift from heaven - I am so delighted to be able to read things on my own and take care of my affairs. I have always been a very independent person and I like to take care of my business and not burden my family with bill paying or other things I want to do for myself on a daily basis."

For the 2020-2021 program year, our overall goal is to provide vision aids and individual case management services to 50 individuals in the San Antonio area. We prioritize serving children first, then adults with the highest financial and medical need. We currently have a waiting list of 26-30 individuals in need in the greater San Antonio area and plan to serve this number through remote trainings this fall. We plan to serve an additional 20-24 individuals in the Spring of 2021; final amount of people served is contingent on the amount of funding received.

An estimated 53 individuals will be case managed to determine program eligibility and low vision needs. Final equipment recommendations are determined by evaluations by local low vision experts. Not all individuals evaluated by a low vision expert will be recommended high-tech equipment. Therefore, we estimate that we will provide EVMs to approximately 50 of the 53 case-managed individuals. The remaining three people may not need an EVM, but may be recommended other optical aids instead to help with their vision issues (such as hand-held magnifiers, telescopes, and more).

Evaluation Plan:

The success of the program is evaluated by the number of individuals served as well as the impact of the program for each person served. After delivery of an Electronic Video Magnifier through the Low Vision Program, we assess impact of this program using a follow-up survey conducted by case specialists 2 weeks after each delivery/training, every 6 months (for 2 years) and then yearly thereafter. Our follow-up survey captures data in a scientific manner using the Likert Scale. Adults served rate their improvements in the following categories: Reading, Writing, Recreational activities/Hobbies, Independence/Self Reliance, Daily Tasks (paying bills, reading prescriptions, etc.). Children served rate improvements in the following categories: reading/identification of letters, writing/drawing, homework routine, grades, recreational activities, independence, confidence and self-esteem. SSA's uniform data entry training requires that each Case Specialist collect and report data in a like manner for accurate, timely individual results reporting.

The number of EVMs provided yearly is contingent upon the amount of funding awarded for the program year. With this in mind, a partial award in any amount can still be utilized effectively. For example, if half of the funds were granted, SSA would distribute half of the equipment proposed for the upcoming clinic. This would still be life-changing for any individuals who do receive equipment in the coming year.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

The Low Vision Program has been in existence almost since SSA's inception. We have served over 3,000 individuals across the country and will continue to work towards our goal of eliminating the need for high-tech vision aids among those who cannot afford them. We are thankful to have the current support of the Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation, St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries and the Greehey Family Foundation for this upcoming program. SSA is also requesting grant funds from the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio, in addition to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation.

SSA will continue to solicit support from foundations, corporations, individuals and in-kind donations to support this program. SSA has consistently had significant support from foundations in the Greater San Antonio area and hope to continue this in the future. We also have brought national and out-of-state funding into the areas where we serve as needed.

Line item Budget:		
Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Electronic Video Magnifiers: EVMs will be purchased/delivered for an estimated 50 individuals at \$2,595 each (amount shown reflects final price after \$515 discount/EVM from equipment supplier).	\$104,000	\$15,700
Other Vision Aids: Some individuals referred will be provided with vision aids such as hand-held magnifiers, telescopes, eyeglasses, bioptics, mobility aids, and other equipment as recommended.	\$3,100	\$700
Case Management: Identify individuals in need of low vision evaluations in collaboration with established network of partners; review existing medical records and specialist-recommended treatments to identify those most in need of EVMs and optical vision aids; contact each family to coordinate appointments; make reminder calls; arrange transportation as needed; coordinate EVM delivery/training clinic(s) as appropriate; train each person individually on his or her equipment; conduct long-term follow-up until each child turns 19; track all activity, treatment and outcomes in database.	\$26,500	\$3,500

Low Vision Evaluations: Conducted by local low vision experts to evaluate each individual's visual impairment, determining program eligibility and recommending the appropriate vision aids.	\$600	\$100
TOTAL:	\$134,200	\$20,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

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Holly Lollar, APR	The Lollar Group
Dawn DeCarlo, O.D., MS, MSPH	Director, Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation; Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Judy Mayo	District Nurse, Fredericksburg, TX Independent School District