



New York City District Council of Carpenters

**BENEFIT FUNDS**

# Glaucoma Awareness

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. Although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages. Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. It is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain.

There is no cure for glaucoma—yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. The appropriate treatment depends upon the type of glaucoma among other factors. Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease.



## GET CHECKED

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world, according to the World Health Organization.

The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get a comprehensive eye examination. Then, if you have glaucoma, treatment can begin immediately.

## RISK FACTORS

Those at higher risk include people of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent. Other high-risk groups include: people over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely nearsighted.

Regular eye exams are especially important for those at higher risk for glaucoma, and may help to prevent unnecessary vision loss.

## HELP RAISE AWARENESS

- Talk to friends and family about glaucoma. Ask your family if there is history of glaucoma or other vision problems. If you have glaucoma, don't keep it a secret. Let your family members know.
- Schedule an eye exam
- Get involved in your community through fundraisers, online information sessions or group discussions, etc.

The NYCDCC Welfare Fund provides vision care benefits for eligible participants and their covered dependents. Vision care benefits are provided through Comprehensive Professional Systems ("CPS"), and General Vision Services ("GVS").

COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS ("CPS")  
(212) 675-5745  
[WWW.CPSOPTICAL.COM](http://WWW.CPSOPTICAL.COM)

GENERAL VISION SERVICES ("GVS")  
(800) 847-4661  
[WWW.GENERALVISION.COM](http://WWW.GENERALVISION.COM)