



**Prevent
Blindness**

Focus on Eye Health Summit

**BEING SEEN
AND HEARD**



SESSION 1:
Keynote Presentation:
The Patient Voice

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THE PATIENT VOICE

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Challenges in the Healthcare System



Lower insurance coverage and unmet healthcare needs among visually impaired individuals.

- **Statistical Insights**

- 7% of visually impaired adults lacked health insurance coverage
- 4% of visually impaired adults did not have a usual healthcare provider
- 29.2% of visually impaired adults had unmet healthcare needs due to cost barriers

Challenges in the Healthcare System



- **Daily Challenges**

- Inaccessible medical forms, lack of braille signage.
- Attitudinal barriers and misconceptions about capabilities.

Advocacy and Solutions

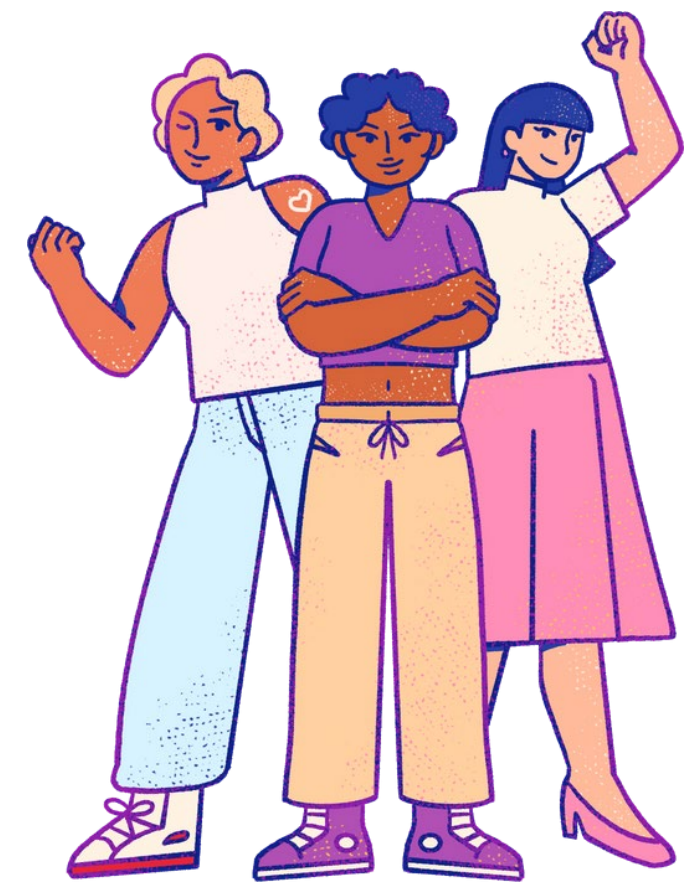


Seeing visual impairment as a different way of navigating the world.

- **Practical Solutions**

- **Educate Yourself:** Learn about challenges and resources.
- **Speak Up:** Advocate for accessibility and against discrimination.
- **Support Advocacy Organizations:** Donate or volunteer.
- **Champion Inclusive Design:** Prioritize accessibility in healthcare products/services.
- **Foster Empathy:** Listen to and share experiences of visually impaired individuals.

Empowering Change



- **Individual Advocacy**

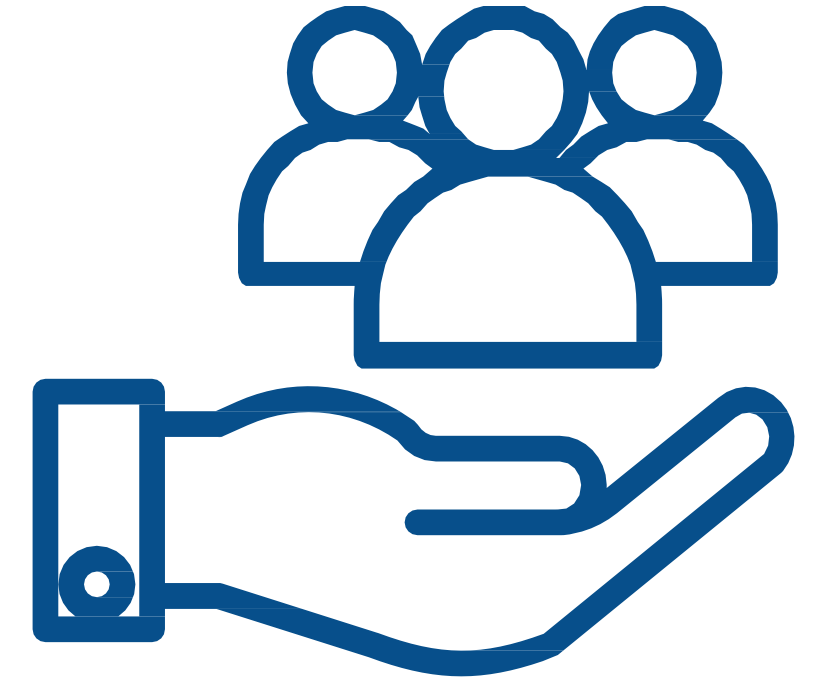
- Know your rights, communicate needs, request accessible formats.
- Bring support to appointments, file complaints if necessary.

- **Systemic Advocacy**

- Support from organizations like AFB and NFB.
- Recent legislative efforts and the role of inclusive design.

Conclusion

- Navigating the healthcare system can be challenging.
- Importance of being informed, prepared, and assertive. Our responsibility to support and empower blind patients.



Thank you

- Thank you for your time.
- Looking forward to discussions and insights.
- Together, we can make a meaningful difference.



Sources

- preventblindness.org - New "It Started with an Eye Exam" campaign
- thewellproject.org - How to Be an Advocate for Yourself and Others
- preventblindness.org - Prevent Blindness to Host the 2024 ASPECT Patient