**2025 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award**

**Application Information**

**Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award:**

The *Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award*is presented annually to a student or resident in a health-related field who submits the best overall application and essay addressing the [2025 Focus on Eye Health Summit](http://www.preventblindness.org/eyesummit) theme: ***Perspectives in Vision.*** This year’s theme, *Perspectives in Vision*, emphasizes the need for a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to addressing eye health challenges in an evolving world. The Summit will explore topics such as:

* Innovations in vision care and technology
* Public health strategies to reduce preventable blindness
* Policy frameworks to integrate eye health into broader healthcare system
* Local to global approaches to ensuring access to quality eye care
* Personal stories from patients and caregivers to deepen insights into eye health

By uniting diverse perspectives, this event aims to inspire actionable solutions to improve vision health outcomes for communities worldwide.

This esteemed award consists of formal acknowledgement and a commemorative plaque to be presented at webinar in the Fall of 2025 which builds on the theme of the 2025 Focus on Eye Health Summit. The awardee will be invited to present their essay and related work as a speaker on the webinar. Information on previous recipients of the *Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award* can be found [here](https://preventblindness.org/rising-visionary-award/).

**Applicant Criteria:**

Applicants should be a current student, intern, or resident located in the United States in optometry, ophthalmology, primary health care, nursing, psychology, or another health-related field. The awardee must be available to present virtually at a Focus on Eye Health Summit webinar in the Fall of 2025.

**Submission Requirements:**

***Please note****: Submissions not adhering to the guidelines detailed below (for e.g., not responding to each of the three individual essay sections, exceeding page limits and word counts etc.) will not be considered.*

* **Application Cover Sheet:** The essaymust be submitted with an application cover sheet (template included in this application packet).
* **Essay**: 500-word essay answering the following topic:

***Topic****: Identify an opportunity where the need for a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach in development of vision and eye health research, programs, or policy can address eye health challenges.*

1. Describe an opportunity that can lead to meaningful vision and eye health research, programs, or policy. (100 words)
2. How will the identified opportunity positively impact vision and eye health in the U.S.? (250 words)
3. Explain the systems or processes that will need to change for the impact to be fully realized. (150 words)

Note: The essay should include references. Reference information will not count toward the word limit.

* **Curriculum Vitae and Personal Statement**: Submit a one-page curriculum vitae containing higher educational accomplishments, work experience, honors, professional memberships, volunteer work, and other related experience. Please include a 200-word personal statement describing the relevant academic, experiential, and leadership training. [Click here for an example](https://preventblindness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Prevent-Blindness-Rising-Visionary-Award-Curriculum-Vitae-Example.pdf).
* **Letters of Recommendation**: Up to two recent letters of recommendation from a professor, employer, mentor, or other professional with an advisory or supervisory role in your program of study. The letter should describe the terms and duration of the relationship with the applicant (two-page maximum for each letter).

**About Prevent Blindness and the Focus on Eye Health Summit**

Founded in 1908, [Prevent Blindness](http://www.preventblindness.org) is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient empowerment programs, and research.

Prevent Blindness will host the 14th annual [Focus on Eye Health Summit](https://www.preventblindness.org/eyesummit) as a virtual interactive event on May 14, 2025. The Focus on Eye Health Summit elevates the national dialogue among professionals, policymakers, patient advocates, and innovators to exchange ideas, share experiences, and forge strategies to promote equitable access to vision care. To continue this dialog, there will be two webinars around the theme to continue through 2025, one of which is where this award will be given.

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**Application Cover Sheet**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name:

Title:

Training program:

Preferred mailing address:

Email:

Telephone:

If selected, are you available to speak virtually at a webinar in the Fall of 2025?

[ ]  **YES**

[ ]  **NO**

How did you hear about the *2025 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award*?

[ ]  Email

[ ]  Press release

[ ]  Social media

[ ]  Colleague

[ ]  Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Application Checklist:**

***Please note****: Submissions not adhering to the guidelines below (for e.g., not responding to each of the three individual essay sections, exceeding page limits and word counts etc.) will not be considered.*

[ ]  **Application Cover Sheet**

[ ]  **Essay** (not exceeding 500 words)

[ ]  **Curriculum Vitae and Personal Statement** (1 page)

[ ]  **Letters of Recommendation** (up to two)

**Applicant, please sign after reading:**

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and was written by me without the use of artificial intelligence. I understand that to falsify or omit information is grounds for this award to be revoked or withdrawn. I acknowledge that the Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award may be revoked or withdrawn at any time or for any reason by Prevent Blindness.*

**Applicant signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Email the items in the application checklist with the subject “2025 Prevent Blindness Rising Visionary Award” to Nita Sinha, Director of Public Health at** **npatelsinha@preventblindness.org** **by Monday, March 10th, 2025 at noon ET.**