

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)
SightFirst Research Grant
2023-2024 Request for Proposals

Introduction

The LCIF SightFirst program strengthens eye care systems in underserved communities enabling them to fight blindness and vision loss and assist those who are blind or visually impaired. The program funds high-quality, sustainable projects that deliver eye care services, develop infrastructure, train personnel, increase public awareness of eye health, and/or provide rehabilitation and education for persons who are blind or have low vision.

SightFirst funds are also available to support public health research initiatives whose outcomes directly influence or inform operation of the SightFirst program and, in some cases, that of other global blindness prevention efforts. SightFirst research projects evaluate existing approaches, identify and validate innovative or improved program strategies, determine the eye care needs of a particular region or population and/or assess the barriers to uptake of eye care services.

Research Objectives & Funding Priorities

SightFirst research grants of up to \$50,000,000 will be awarded to support an experienced individual, institution, organization or consortium engaged in a public health research project to be completed in less than 36 months.

The funding priorities for the 2024 SightFirst research grant program are as follows:

1. **Cataract**
 - 1.1 Investigate the provision of high-quality cataract surgery and improvement post-operative outcomes;
 - 1.2 Evaluate the cost-effectiveness, efficacy and efficiency in training primary health workers and community health workers in the identification and referral of cataract cases;
2. **Uncorrected Refractive Error**
 - 2.1 Examine how to reduce and correct refractive errors as part of the provision of sustainable comprehensive eye care services;
 - 2.2 Analyze the effectiveness of different optical workshop models in the provision of uncorrected refractive error services;
3. **Rapid Assessment of Available Blindness (RAAB)**
 - 3.1 Undertake first-time RAAB Assessment of Available Blindness surveys (RAABs);
 - 3.2 Conduct repeat RAABs in areas where RAABs were conducted at least five years ago;
 - 3.3 Give priority to areas where there is potential for development of SightFirst projects;

For RAAB-focused projects: although repeat RAAB studies are still very important, SightFirst is particularly looking for research projects that survey areas where Lions could develop SightFirst projects. The project should demonstrate strong potential for connection to the Lions and the