

UNIFORMED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (UFA) / SECURITY BENEFIT FUND (SBF)

OPTICAL BENEFITS

As of January 1st, 2023, General Vision Services (GVS) has taken over the administration of optical claims for the UFA. All services and benefits remain **UNCHANGED**. Members can continue to use the optical providers they have in the past. The various provider networks have been instructed by GVS on how to obtain UFA vouchers.

Active UFA Members (and their eligible spouse/dependents) can submit a claim once a year, Retirees (and their eligible spouse/dependents) can submit a claim once **EVERY OTHER** year. Claims go by Calendar Year. For instance, a Retired member can use their optical coverage in August 2022, then again in January 2024.

The UFA allows ACTIVE members to claim up to \$130 for optical benefits per calendar year - or **EVERY OTHER** year if you're retired.

The only change affecting UFA members is the processing of out of network claims, such as Costco. Claims will now be processed by GVS. Members will fill out a UFA/GVS Reimbursement Form and mail it to the address on the form along with their receipts. Receipts must be itemized or broken down to show what was paid for (exam, lenses, frames). PLEASE make sure you keep copies of all documents submitted for reimbursement.

ALL CLAIMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF SERVICE.

The reimbursement rate is as follows:

\$30 for exam

\$50 for eyeglass frames

\$50 for eyeglass lenses

... or \$100 for contact lenses (instead of glasses)

Please note - The UFA does NOT reimburse for tinting or scratch-resistant coatings.

PREFERRED METHOD - FINDING UFA OPTICAL PROVIDERS

Find an optical provider by looking on the UFA Website for one - just put in your zip code and it will tell you who is near you. If there is none by your zip code, try going up one number or down one number for the zip code number.

From the main address (www.ufanyc.org) click on the menu on the top right-hand corner, select "Preferred Providers" and then when you're at that page, scroll down to "Optical Provider Search". Or you can **Click Here to Search for Participating UFA Optical Providers**

Another option is to click here to find a provider: <https://ufanyc.org/optical-providers/>

UFA OPTICAL PROVIDERS

Go to the provider, give them your info, and they will verify and generate your benefits electronically with GVS.

Please make sure you tell them the member is with the **UNIFORMED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**. Sometimes individual stores will put in the wrong union name (Officers' Union), or won't know how to process, in which case, they can contact GVS , etc.) for instructions.

ALTERNATIVE METHOD – USING A NON-UFA PROVIDER

If you go to a provider that is ***not*** on the UFA list of providers, you will need to pay out of pocket and submit the ORIGINAL, ITEMIZED receipt for reimbursement (per the reimbursement rates above).

REIMBURSEMENT

If you choose to go to an optical provider who does not participate in our plan, you can pay up front, get an itemized receipt, and mail THE ORIGINAL to GVS for reimbursement **ALONG WITH** the GVS Reimbursement claim form. The UFA/GVS Reimbursement Form can be accessed at <https://www.ufanycbenefits.org/forms/#>. Again, **Make sure you keep copies of everything you send!**

Please allow up to 4 weeks for optical claims to be processed and reimbursement checks to be mailed to you.