

# Q1 REPORT 2025

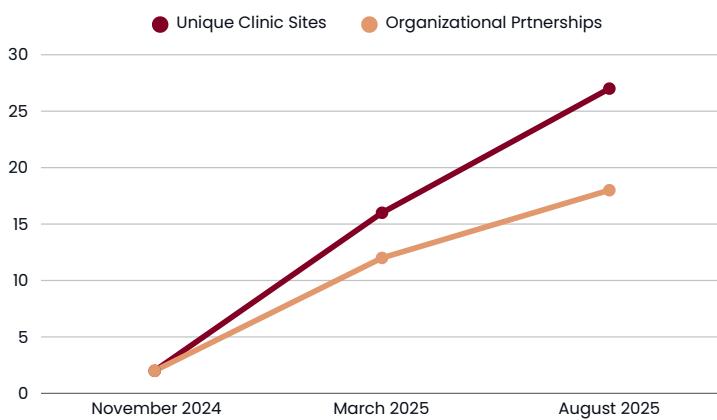
## COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS (CORAP)

### Summary

After the winter planning period, CORAP hit the ground running in Q1 with 7 scheduled eyeVan mobile clinics in addition to 9 Eyes On Wheels (EOW, formerly GES) missions. Partnerships with Pennrose Management, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Macedonia FACE, the Neighborhood Resilience Project, and more led to the scheduling of over 4x the amount of unique eyeVan clinic sites for the Spring & Summer, with 1-3 mobile clinics scheduled every week from late February onward. By the end of Q2, CORAP expects to routinely schedule eyeVan clinics at 20+ unique sites in the Pittsburgh area, constituting a 1,000% increase in site partnerships since the team's conception in September 2024.

The number of patients served by the UPMC eyeVan more than doubled from Q4 2024 (33) to Q1 2025 (70). CORAP expects the number of patients served to plateau by the end of the year as recurring partnerships are solidified, with periods of marked increase when large scale mobile clinics are facilitated. Due to the reported need for pediatric vision clinics in Allegheny & Washington Counties, CORAP is facilitating glasses events for students in need and beginning to schedule clinics for underserved children in the Pittsburgh region in addition to clinics catering to older adults.

### UPMC eyeVan Scale Q4 2024-Q1 2025



### Challenges

CORAP's growth reflects real and rising community need—but meeting that need depends on staffing. As the program expands, CORAP is working at full capacity, even as budget limitations require the team to do more with less. With targeted support to maintain and strengthen staffing, we can sustain this momentum and build toward long-term self-sufficiency as our processes mature.

### eyeVan Case Studies & Testimonials

#### Susan / North Highlands Phase 2

Susan is wheelchair bound & rarely leaves her apartment due to lack of mobility. Her gratitude for the mobile vision services was tangible. She became emotional when expressing thanks for CORAP's on-site presence. Susan related that she felt "cared for" & was delighted that CORAP can provide her annual eye exams down the hall from her apartment.



Dr. Saloni Kapoor facilitates a comprehensive eye exam.

#### eyeVan @ North Highlands II

#### Stephanie / Bedford Dwellings

Stephanie, an uninsured patient, did not report any vision issues. However, on-site imaging revealed a hole in her macula that required immediate follow-up. CORAP scheduled her appointment and will collaborate with social workers at the Bedford Dwellings Envision Center to secure financial assistance to cover her necessary eye care.

#### eyeVan @ Bedford Dwellings

Dr Haniah Zaheer, CORAP fellows Dr. Paula Sepulveda-Beltran and Dr. Valeria Villabona Martinez and CORAP ophthalmic technician Brenda Kirk facilitate comprehensive eye exams.



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## COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS (CORAP)

### Remote Access Project Updates

#### UPMC eyeFleet Mobile Vision Clinics: Eye Care for Older Adults & Underserved Communities

##### Mobile Clinic Metrics: Q1 2025



#### UPMC eyeVan: A Staff-Driven Program

The UPMC eyeVan is the flagship initiative of CORAP's eyeFleet program, bringing comprehensive vision clinics to senior living facilities and other non-traditional sites during office hours. The van was generously donated by the Brother's Brother Foundation, with staffing support provided through the Eye & Ear Foundation and the Hillman Foundation. EOW workflows have directly informed CORAP's ability to deliver staff-driven eyeVan events during regular clinic hours, expanding access to care beyond traditional settings.

##### Adults

At eyeVan clinics in January-March, 48 women and 22 men received care; their average age was 50+ years old.

##### Peds

A pediatric clinic was facilitated for uninsured children referred from Salud Para Ninos, all of whom had been on the waitlist for over a year. A second Salud Para Ninos clinic is scheduled for June, 2025.

##### New Patients

Most patients served by the UPMC eyeVan are new to UPMC Ophthalmology and cite convenience of location as the primary reason for attending. While lack of insurance is not the main barrier addressed, bringing care directly to underserved sites has proven effective in reaching patients who otherwise would not engage with traditional clinic settings. This approach not only fulfills CORAP's outreach mission—it also increases market share among funded patients in high-need areas, supporting long-term sustainability.



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## COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS (CORAP)

### Remote Access Project Updates

#### UPMC eyeFleet Mobile Vision Clinics: Eye Care for Older Adults & Underserved Communities

##### Successes

The UPMC eyeVan initiative has gained significant momentum in Q1 2025, increasing scheduled clinics by partnering with property management companies, non-profit organizations, and institutions like the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and the Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus to cater to the elderly and underserved communities.

70 patients were served across 7 locations in the Pittsburgh region, with most clinics occurring in CORAP's target zip codes: Homewood and the Hill District. 64% of eyeVan patients ordered a pair of glasses via Changing Life Through Lenses, and 14% of eyeVan patients were scheduled at the Vision Institute for specialist follow-up appointments. 8% of patients seen at eyeVan clinics were scheduled for annual appointments at their recurring clinic site.

Stakeholders expressed gratitude and excitement about the mobile clinics, resulting in the scheduling of recurring clinics at 90% of sites on a 3-6 month cadence. Starting in late March, CORAP began scheduling and charting events in EPIC. The pilot clinics in Q1 revealed that most patients seen were new to UPMC Ophthalmology and have insurance coverage, implying that the eyeVan initiative can augment patient metrics for UPMC Ophthalmology and provide billable services to most patients as the program progresses.

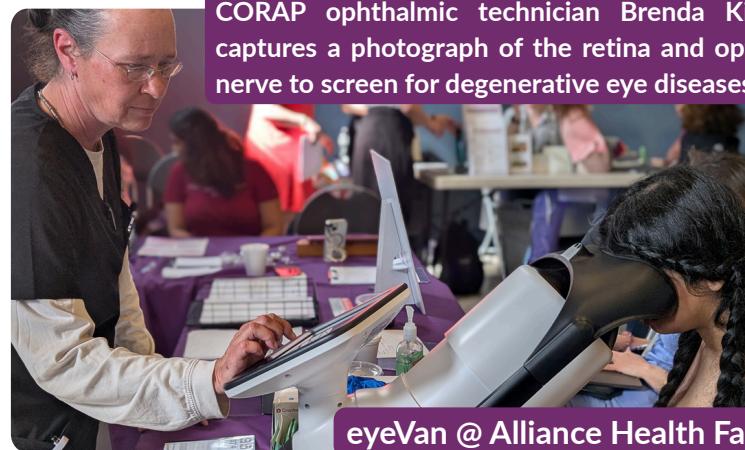
##### Challenges

Because the eyeVan would need to be completely re-fabricated to install an accessibility lift, CORAP has pivoted to indoor set-ups for mobile clinics. Indoor clinics allow for higher patient volume and are not impacted by weather, but have presented the challenge of unloading, setting up, tearing down, and reloading heavy ophthalmic devices, adjustable chairs, power tables, and clinical supplies. CORAP is a small team that is shrinking further due to funding restraints; the manual labor required to facilitate clinics in addition to the clinical work itself is not a sustainable model without reliable volunteers or onboarding new team members.



eyeVan @ North Highlands I

Dr. Saloni Kapoor performs a slit lamp exam with the assistance of CORAP fellow Dr. Paula Sepulveda-Beltran.



CORAP ophthalmic technician Brenda Kirk captures a photograph of the retina and optic nerve to screen for degenerative eye diseases.

eyeVan @ Alliance Health Fair

##### What's Next

Partnerships with the Housing Authority of Allegheny County and Primary Care Health Services are in development for Q2 2025. To ensure all CORAP project scopes receive adequate attention, eyeVan clinics will occur once weekly by Q3 2025.

CORAP hopes to pursue modifications to the eyeVan, namely updating the embedded slit lamp so it can be repurposed for indoor clinics and/or sourcing a portable accessibility lift to make eyeVan exams more feasible for all patients. CORAP also plans to integrate a satisfaction survey into the mobile clinic workflow and will pursue the development of a UPMC Frame Kit so insured patients can purchase glasses during mobile events.

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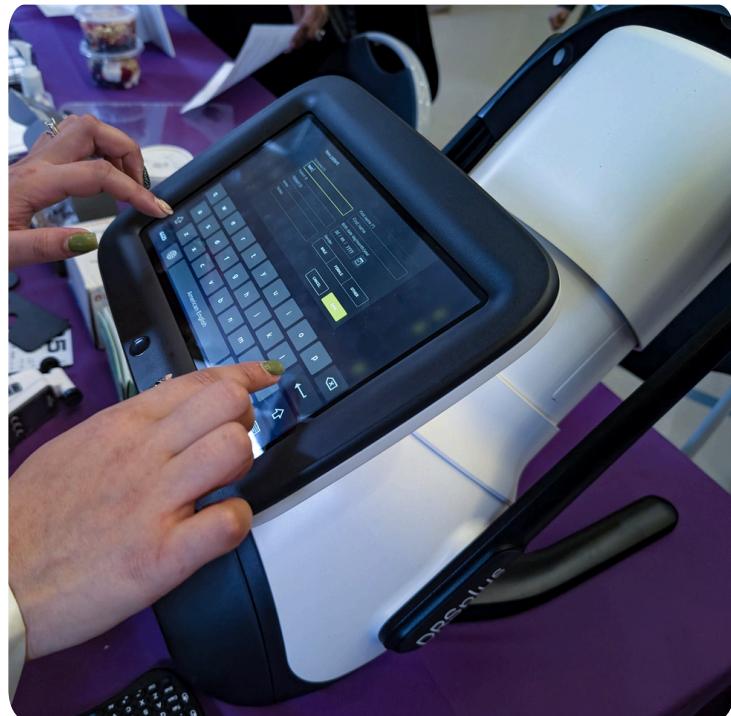
### Remote Access Project Updates

#### Remote Screening: Early Detection of Eye Disease

CORAP aims to close the CMS-identified care gap (50%+) in diabetic eye screening by integrating remote imaging into primary care offices, enabling early detection and treatment of asymptomatic diabetic retinopathy before vision loss occurs. Currently, 40+ screening cameras are deployed in primary care and endocrine offices in and outside the UPMC network. These sites generate images, then securely transfer them to remote ophthalmologists who expertly interpret them within 48 hours. This workflow reduces unnecessary in-person exams, decreasing the burden on patients without retinopathy and freeing specialists to focus on patients in need of treatment.

#### Successes

CORAP is facilitating an audit of all currently deployed imaging cameras and their sites to update site contact information, provide training as needed, and investigate device maintenance/workflow issues. CORAP is also collecting qualitative data from site stakeholders to determine how to increase utilization of the cameras at underperforming sites and further improve workflows at high-volume sites.



#### Challenges

Some partner sites are indigent clinics that do not have access to EPIC, requiring the development of an image transfer workflow that is unique to them. Because image uploads through EPIC media manager do not currently integrate with the Ophthalmology PACS (Zeiss FORUM), CORAP is collaborating with Ophthalmology IT to develop a long-term solution that will meet BRIDGES requirements and stakeholder needs.

#### What's Next?

By the end of Q3, CORAP aims to produce a high-level report on the current state of the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening initiative, including training deficits, device status, and workflow issues based on stakeholder feedback and imaging metrics. Guided by the report, CORAP will create and disseminate updated training materials, reallocate devices as needed, and tweak the image reporting workflow(s) to increase program efficiency and improve patient outcomes.



**Current Devices**  
iCare DRS / DRS+

#### TopCon NW400 Trial

In February 2025, CORAP collaborated with Topcon to embed NW400 fundus imaging cameras at two of the highest-performing partner sites. The trial was paused due to UPMC electronic health record connectivity issues. CORAP expects to reboot the trial in Q3 with the newer NW500 Fundus imaging camera when software approvals and integrations are completed by the Topcon and Ophthalmology IT teams.

# Q1 REPORT 2025

## OPHTHALMOLOGY COMMUNITY OUTREACH & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS

### Remote Access Project Updates

#### Remote Screening: UPMC eyeSuite

The traditional referral process for routine eye care often requires patients to schedule and attend a separate appointment at a different location—a step that can easily be missed due to logistical barriers. As a result, many patients identified by their primary care provider (PCP) as needing eye care never receive it, leading to gaps in treatment and follow-up.

The UPMC eyeSuite is designed to close that gap by embedding full-service ophthalmic care directly into primary care settings. Each eyeSuite will be equipped with advanced diagnostic tools and regularly staffed by a trained ophthalmic technician. A remote ophthalmologist will oversee care across multiple sites simultaneously—providing real-time video consultation, reviewing imaging, and making clinical decisions, all while maintaining a patient volume comparable to an in-office clinic day. Patients can receive glasses prescriptions, order eyewear, and complete essential tests like visual fields and retinal imaging—without ever leaving their PCP's office.

This model not only increases convenience and care coordination, it also enhances access for geographically and transportation-limited patients who are often insured but disconnected from specialty services. By reaching new patients in underserved areas and keeping the care financially sustainable, eyeSuite advances CORAP's mission to deliver equitable, high-quality eye care where it's needed most.

#### Successes

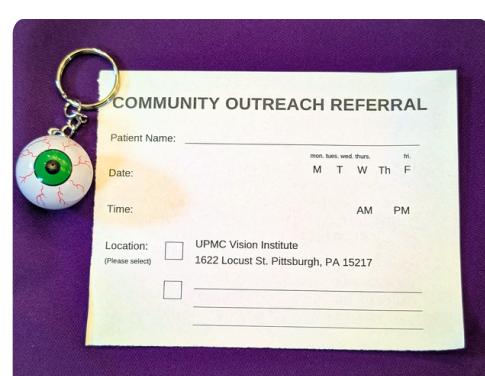
Partner locations eager to integrate a UPMC eyeSuite into their primary care offices have been identified within the UPMC network and at community-based clinics: University Family Medicine-Liberty Avenue and Alma Illery Health Clinic are contenders for eyeSuite pilots. Plans to integrate an eyeSuite at UPMC Mathilda Theiss, assuming pilot success, are also tentatively outlined.

#### Challenges

eyeSuite project timelines are dependent on available funding and lengthy device approval processes. Pursuit of financial backing for eyeSuite integrations is ongoing, and one of the portable ophthalmic devices desired for the eyeSuite is currently moving through the extensive UPMC device approval pipelines. Device approval could take up to 12 weeks, which could be more of a blessing than a curse as CORAP and the Eye & Ear Foundation work to source funding for the project.

#### What's Next

1. Source funding
2. Purchase devices
3. Schedule installation
4. Collaborate with site stakeholders and UPMC stakeholders to develop scheduling and billing workflows.



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## COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS (CORAP)

### Research Projects

Research is central to CORAP's mission. As we develop new models to deliver remote eye care and reach underserved communities, we are committed to studying what works—and sharing those insights to inform broader adoption across the country. By generating evidence, we aim to ensure our innovations are not only impactful locally but scalable and sustainable nationally.

In Q1, CORAP received IRB approval for a retrospective study covering its UPMC eyeFleet initiatives and analysis of data from the Mission of Mercy (MOM) event. Two original research projects were accepted for presentation at the 2025 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Conference:

- Social Determinants of Health and Insurance Disparities in Eye Care Access: Insights from a 2-Day Community-Based Event
- Opportunities for Remote Ophthalmology: Patient and Operator Experience Using an Automated Refractor

Several manuscripts are also in development for submission to *\*Medicina\** and other peer-reviewed journals. These articles, created in collaboration with University of Pittsburgh statisticians and student researchers, focus on the individual and systemic barriers to ophthalmic care, and the role of social work and community-based outreach in overcoming them.

### CORAP Patient Coverage

Navigating today's healthcare system is challenging—even more so when medical needs intersect with social barriers such as language, citizenship status, or economic insecurity. For patients facing these compounded obstacles, simply accessing the care they qualify for can become a major hurdle.

Dr. Villabona-Martinez, a post-doctoral research fellow with CORAP, has taken a hands-on approach to helping patients overcome these challenges. She has worked one-on-one with individuals referred from Eyes On Wheels missions, eyeVan events, large-scale efforts like Mission of Mercy, and remote referral pathways—guiding them through complex insurance and financial assistance processes. In doing so, she has also been systematically documenting what works.

Building on her experience, we have launched an initiative to develop CORAP-GPT—a pilot tool that will combine Dr. Villabona-Martinez's insights with the expertise of the department's patient navigator. This AI-powered assistant will help future staff and volunteers respond to patient needs more efficiently, with the goal of scaling compassionate, informed navigation support across our programs. CORAP is also pursuing partnerships with organizations like the Pennsylvania Health Advocacy Network to facilitate insurance applications for patients referred for follow-up care from CORAP's clinical events.

### Contact the CORAP Team

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## COMMUNITY OPHTHALMOLOGY & REMOTE ACCESS PROGRAMS (CORAP)

**Thank you to all our partners, sponsors, volunteers and staff!**



Special thanks and congratulations to CORAP Research Fellow Dr. Paula Sepulveda Beltran, who is moving on to her Ophthalmology Residency!

### eyeVan Partner Organizations & Sites

South Hills Square Retirement Resort  
1320 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Macedonia FACE

- K. Leroy Irvis Towers: 715 Mercer Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
- Thelma Lovette YMCA: 2114 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
- Bellefield Dwellings: 4400 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Bedford Dwellings & Neighborhood Resilience Project

- Envision Center: 2305 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
- NRP Headquarters: 2038 Bedford Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Homewood Wellness Pavilion  
622 N. Homewood Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Steel City Squash (Peds) (SCS)  
624 Larimer Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Vision Services of Washington-Greene Counties (VSWGC)  
566 E Maiden St, Washington, PA 15301

Hosanna House  
807 Wallace Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

Bethany Christian Ministries Location(s)

- Bethany Center: 7745 Tioga Street Pittsburgh PA 15208
- Marian Plaza: 8601 Bricelyn Street Pittsburgh PA 15221
- Bennett Plaza: 7245 Bennett Street Pittsburgh PA 15208
- Port Vue: 1810 Myer Ave McKeesport PA 15133
- Homewood Station: 7202 Susquehanna Street Pittsburgh PA 15208

Penn Rose Assisted Living

- North Highlands 1: 100 Felicity Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
- North Highlands 2: 110 McIntyre Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
- Christopher Smith Terrace: 2829 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
- Allegheny Apartments: 401 W. Commons, Pittsburgh PA 15212

Alliance Health Fair

Alliance Center Church: 250 East Ohio Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Penn State @ Greater Allegheny Campus  
4000 University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15132

Vintage Senior Center  
421 N Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Homewood House  
7130 Frankstown Avenue Pittsburgh PA 15208

Presbyterian SeniorCare

- Fairmont Apartments: 5461 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

- Silver Lake Commons: 6935 Frankstown Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Hilltop Family Care Connection (Peds)  
1630 Arlington Avenue PGH PA 15210

### Eyes On Wheels Partner Sites

2nd Avenue Commons  
700 2nd Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Alma Illery Medical Center  
7227 Hamilton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Birmingham Clinic  
1515 Locust St., Suite 705 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Braddock Family Health Center  
404 Braddock Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15104

East End Community Center  
117 N Negley, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

McKeesport 9th Street Clinic  
410 Ninth Street, McKeesport, PA 15132

Sheep Inc Health Center  
11817 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235

Squirrel Hill Health Center  
4516 Browns Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

East Liberty Family Healthcare Center  
6023 Harvard St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Allies for Health & Wellbeing  
5913 Penn Ave 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Midland Health Center  
754 Ohio Ave, Midland, PA 15059

## CORAP Sponsors

- Eye & Ear Foundation
- Jewish Healthcare Foundation
- Henry L. Hillman Foundation
- Nancy Washington
- PA Medical Society