



DRAFT ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TUGUEGARAO CITY “MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CLEAR AND RELIABLE EYE-CARE SERVICES” PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF

Authored and sponsored by:

HON. MARK ANGELO B. DAYAG

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost”;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, also known as the General Welfare Clause, mandates that “every local government unit shall exercise the powers necessary for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare, particularly in improving public health”;

WHEREAS, Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991 assigns local government units the responsibility to deliver basic services, including health programs such as medical services and health promotion initiatives for the benefit of their constituents;

WHEREAS, visual impairment and other eye-related conditions significantly impact the well-being, productivity, and quality of life of Tuguegarao City residents, particularly the underprivileged who may not have access to proper eye-care and corrective eyewear;

WHEREAS, the Tuguegarao City ‘Making A Difference for Clear and Reliable Eye-Care Service’ Program seeks to provide free eye check-ups and prescription eyeglasses to 5,000 beneficiaries annually, ensuring that every citizen has access to essential vision care;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Tuguegarao recognizes the need to prioritize accessible eye-care services as part of its commitment to public health and social welfare, in alignment with national health policies and local government mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Ninth City Council in session assembled to enact:

SECTION 1. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as the “*Tuguegarao City Making A Difference for Clear and Reliable Eye-Care Services Ordinance.*”

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the policy of the City Government of Tuguegarao to ensure the well-being and quality of life of its citizens through the provision of basic healthcare services. Toward this end, the City recognizes the importance of eye-care through the institutionalization of the “**Making A Difference for Clear and Reliable Eye-Care Services**” Program, which will provide free eye check-ups and eyeglasses to 5,000 beneficiaries annually, particularly targeting the underserved and marginalized communities in the city.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES. The ordinance aims to achieve the following:

1. To provide free eye check-ups and/or eyeglasses to 5,000 residents of Tuguegarao City annually, with priority given to
2. To raise awareness regarding eyecare as part of healthcare services, and its importance to overall well-being.
3. To improve access to vision correction services for vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and low-income families.
4. To establish a sustainable and accessible eye care system in the city.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) **Eye Check-Up** – A professional examination conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to assess a person's vision, eye health, and the need for corrective eyewear.
- b) **Eyeglasses** – A pair of lenses set in a frame worn in front of the eyes, used to correct refractive errors such as nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism.
- c) **Refractive Errors** – A category of vision problems that occur when the shape of the eye prevents light from focusing correctly on the retina, leading to blurred vision. Common types include myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), and astigmatism.
- d) **Beneficiaries** – Refers to residents of Tuguegarao City who are qualified to receive the services of this Ordinance, particularly senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and members of indigent families.
- e) **Indigent Residents** – Individuals or families who have been classified by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) as economically disadvantaged and unable to afford basic healthcare services, including eye care.
- f) **Senior Citizens** – Individuals aged 60 years and above who are registered with the City Office of Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA), in accordance to Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.
- g) **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** – Individuals with long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that may hinder their full participation in society, as recognized under Republic Act No. 7277, also known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities.
- h) **Barangay Health Workers (BHWs)** – Community-based health personnel who assist in identifying eligible beneficiaries and promoting public health programs at the barangay level.
- i) **Optometrist** – A licensed healthcare professional specializing in vision care, including diagnosing refractive errors, prescribing eyeglasses or contact lenses, and detecting eye abnormalities.
- j) **Ophthalmologist** – A medical doctor specializing in eye and vision care, including diagnosing and treating eye diseases, performing surgery, and prescribing corrective lenses.
- k) **Optical Service Providers** – Accredited establishments, clinics, or professionals that supply prescription eyeglasses and other vision correction services to beneficiaries under this Ordinance.
- l) **Eye Care Mission** – A scheduled community outreach event aimed at providing free eye examinations, consultations, and corrective eyewear to residents of Tuguegarao City, particularly those in underserved areas.
- m) **Health Education Campaign** – An awareness initiative under this Ordinance that aims to inform the public about the importance of eye care, common eye diseases, preventive measures, and the availability of free eye health services.
- n) **Voucher System** – A mechanism in which eligible beneficiaries receive a certificate or coupon entitling them to free eyeglasses, redeemable at participating optical service providers.
- o) **Program** – refers to the Making A Difference for Clear and Reliable Eye-Care Services program under this Ordinance.

- p) **Student** – Any individual officially enrolled in a public or private educational institution in Tuguegarao City, including elementary, secondary, tertiary, vocational, and technical schools.
- q) **Youth** – Individuals aged 15 to 30 years old, as defined under Republic Act No. 8044 (Youth in Nation-Building Act), who reside in Tuguegarao City. This includes students, out-of-school youth, young workers, and other young individuals who may benefit from the program's vision care services.
- r) **Marginalized Sector** – refers to disadvantaged or vulnerable groups in society who experience economic, social, or physical hardships that limit their access to basic services, including healthcare, including, but is not limited to, indigent families, senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), out-of-school youth, informal workers, solo parents, indigenous peoples, and other economically disadvantaged individuals as recognized under existing laws and policies.

SECTION 5. QUALIFICATIONS. The program will be available to all bona fide residents of Tuguegarao City – one who actually resides and maintains Tuguegarao City as his or her domicile – with priority given to the following groups:

- a. Senior citizens
- b. Persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- c. Members of Indigent families
- d. Students and youth
- e. Other marginalized sectors

SECTION 6. EYE-CARE TASK FORCE. A task force which shall select beneficiaries in the registration process shall be facilitated by and composed of the following offices:

- City Health Office (CHO)
- City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO)
- Office of the Liga ng mga Barangay President, in coordination with local health workers.

SECTION 7. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS. The following shall be the requirements in order to avail the services provided under this Ordinance.:

1. Certificate of residency from the Barangay
2. Certificate from Barangay Health Worker recommending applicant for eye-care check-up.
3. PSA Birth Certificate
4. OSCA, PWD, school ID, or 4Ps ID, if appropriate.

SECTION 8. FREE EYE CHECK-UP. Free eye screening activities will be conducted in various barangays and health centers in the city where professional eye health providers, such as optometrists and ophthalmologists, will be enlisted to conduct the eye exams in a schedule to be determined by the CHO.

SECTION 9. FREE EYE-GLASSES. Beneficiaries who are diagnosed with refractive errors such as nearsightedness and farsightedness will receive free eyeglasses based on the prescription given during the eye check-up.

Upon completing the check-up, eligible beneficiaries will be issued a voucher for eyeglasses, which can be redeemed at designated optical service providers or at the CHO.

SECTION 10. EYE HEALTH EDUCATION. This program will include educational campaigns on proper eye care, signs of common eye problems, and the importance of regular eye exams.

SECTION 11. ANNUAL MAJOR EYE CARE MISSIONS. Within one year, at least two major eye care missions shall be conducted annually, targeting barangays in the city which need eye-care the most, ensuring maximum outreach and service to residents.

SECTION 12. IMPLEMENTATION. The primary implementing office for this Ordinance shall be the City Health Office (CHO) which shall be responsible for organizing the eye check-up events and facilitating medical and optical services.

The CSWDO shall be responsible for the identification and registration of eligible beneficiaries, as assisted by the barangay health workers at the community level.

Further, the Office of the City Mayor shall promulgate implementing rules and regulations within 30 days from the approval and effectivity of this Ordinance.

SECTION 13. EYE CARE CLINICS AND PARTNERSHIPS. The City may partner with local optometrists, ophthalmologists, and optical clinics to provide professional eye care services. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or corporate partners may also be explored to support the program. In any instance, an appropriate resolution from the Sangguniang Panlungsod authorizing the City Mayor to enter into a memorandum of agreement/understanding must be secured and observed.

SECTION 14. MONITORING AND EVALUATION. The CHO and the CSWDO shall be responsible for the regular monitoring of the program's implementation and shall submit to the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the Office of the City Mayor a joint annual report, detailing the number of beneficiaries served, funds utilized, review of its effectiveness, identification of any challenges and recommendations, and the program's overall impact.

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATIONS. The City Government of Tuguegarao shall allocate in the annual budget this Program to cover the cost of eye check-ups, eyeglasses, and administrative expenses, subject to the availability of funds and existing regulations.

SECTION 16. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. REPEALING CLAUSE. Ordinances, executive orders and other local legislations inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 18. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval and publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

ON MOTION OF _____, City Ordinance No. _____ was approved.