

APPLICATION FOR THE CCOA PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP 2022-2023

First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy

Through the First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES), the Canadian Association of Optometrists is pleased to provide funding to facilitate the hiring and training of Indigenous youth as Certified Canadian Optometric Assistants (CCOA).

Mentored by a **CAO member optometrist**, successful candidates become fully salaried office team members and receive on-the-job training as trained and specialized Optometric Assistants.

Funding includes:

- » CCOA Program registration fee;
- » Wages* from September 4, 2023, to March 31, 2024. Employers can provide a higher hourly wage for enhanced retention;
- » Workshop registration, including travel and accommodations.

*\$15/hour for a maximum 35-hour week, 4% vacation pay and CPP, EI.

Candidates between the ages of 18 and 30, who meet any of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

1 Resident on Reserve or in a Recognized Community on Crown land

- » May be temporarily off reserve for the primary purpose of seeking education\employment.

2 Inuit Residents Outside Their Territory:

- » Inuit individuals living in Canada who no longer qualify for funding from their territory.
- » Proof of refusal from the territory is required to demonstrate eligibility.

CCOA Program start date: September 4, 2023

CCOA Program end date: June 7, 2024

Deadline for
application is

**August 14th,
2023**

CAO is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and diversity within the field of optometry.



Name of Candidate:

Name of Band or Indigenous Community:

Address:

Name of Sponsoring Optometrist:

Address of Clinic:

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

A resident of reserve, recognized communities on Crown land. Proof of identity and residency are required with the application.

Must be between 18 and 30 years of age.

Be legally entitled to work following relevant provincial or territorial laws and regulations;

Not be receiving Employment Insurance (EI) benefits;

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE

How do you envision using this education and skills to positively impact your indigenous community or contribute to indigenous issues and causes?

What are your long-term goals and aspirations, and how do you see this scholarship helping you achieve them?

How do you plan to integrate indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and practices into your new role as an optometric assistant?

Candidate Signature:

Date:

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSORING OPTOMETRIST:

How will you mentor and provide the OA with the necessary experience to meet the CCOA program criteria successfully?

How will you do you foster diversity and inclusion in your clinic, ensuring an inclusive environment that values and respects individuals from all backgrounds, promotes equal opportunities, and actively seeks diverse perspectives? equal opportunities, and actively seeks diverse perspectives?

OD Statement of Interest:

I will mentor and provide the OA with all the necessary experience to successfully meet the CCOA program criteria.

Optometrist Signature:

Date: