

# The new glasses allowance

## - questions & answers

*A new law was introduced on 1 March 2016 which gives children and young people aged 8-19 years of age the right to an allowance for glasses or contact lenses.*



Version 2: 10 June 2016

### 1. From what date will the new law be in force?

The law came into force on 1 March 2016. That means that all county councils and regions must pay out the allowance for glasses or contact lenses that are collected and paid for **after** 1 March.

### 2. What rules apply in the County of Västernorrland?

- The allowance is a **maximum** SEK 900 per year. If the cost of the glasses or contact lenses is **lower** than that, the actual cost will be paid out.
- Any extra cost for frames, repairs, or treatments for hardness, colour or anti-glare must be paid by the customer.
- No allowance is paid out for the cost of glasses or contact lenses that have been damaged or lost, nor for spare glasses or spare lenses.

### 3. Who is able to receive the allowance, and how is it paid out?

The new rules apply for children and young people aged 8-19 years of age. Children under 8 years were already entitled to the allowance. To receive an allowance for glasses or contact lenses, you must make an appointment with any licenced optician. The optician decides whether glasses or lenses are needed. A vision test is carried out in order to determine the

correct glasses or lenses, and the optician writes out a prescription. The prescription must be attached to the invoice that the optician submits to the county council.

### 4. How is the allowance paid out?

The optician deducts the amount of the allowance when the customer pays, and then invoices Landstinget (Västernorrland County Council) the amount of the allowance.

### 3. Is it possible to apply for the allowance retrospectively?

People who have already collected glasses or lenses for children or young people after 1 March 2016 can apply for the allowance retrospectively. There is a "transitional form" for this at [www.lvn.se](http://www.lvn.se). You must attach the receipt for the items you purchased and the prescription/optician's note to the form, and then send all the papers to Landstingservice Ekonomi at the address stated on the form.

### 5. What applies for unaccompanied asylum-seeker minors and young people who have no documents?

All children and youth have the same right to the allowance, which means that these groups are also covered by the new law. Asylum-seekers state their LMA number, unaccompanied minors and those without documents state their date of birth.