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303.320.7790, 405.812.0685 (cell), [maggie@morethanpr.com](mailto:maggie@morethanpr.com)**Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Announces Mini-Grant Funding Awards to Community Projects Seeking to Improve Children's Oral Health***A total of \$100,962 will fund community projects across the state.*

DENVER – August 24, 2015 - Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) today announced funding awards for projects working to improve children's oral health in local communities. Eleven organizations have received awards ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000 per grant. Total award funding is \$100, 962.

This funding is part of DDCOF's larger efforts to spur dental health innovation throughout Colorado. Through statewide request for applications (RFA), 56 grant requests for more than \$618,000 in funding were submitted. Interested individuals or organizations were required to describe how their project targets one of DDCOF's three drivers of success: increase the public's awareness of and support for oral health; improve access to evidence-based dental care; and secure decision makers' buy-in to the importance of oral health.

The following Colorado organizations have received mini-grant funding from DDCOF:

- Grand Beginnings, Healthy Mouths, Healthy Families project in Hot Sulphur Springs.
- Salud Family Health Centers, Salud School Based Dental Outreach and Education project in Fort Lupton.
- Community Dental Clinic and WIC Oral Wellness in Montrose.
- Dental Aid with Let's Maintain our Oral Health in Boulder.
- Tri County Health Network and Improving Oral Health Outcomes in Ouray, Delta and Montrose.
- Denver Indian Health Services, Native Tooth project in Denver.
- Cheyenne County Public Health and the Oral Health program in Cheyenne County.
- Prowers County, Little Smiles Project in Lamar.
- Pueblo Community College, PCC Public Awareness and Access to Oral Health Care project in Pueblo.
- Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance with Bright Start Smiles in Pitkin and Eagle County.
- Axis Health System and Improving Oral Health for Underserved Kids in La Plata County in Durango.

Funding priority was given to applicants whose applications showed innovation, had an implementation plan, strived to reach underserved children and have the potential for sustainability. The projects selected for funding can take no more than one year to complete.

“This mini-grant funding allows Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation to empower local organizations and individuals to create projects focused on prevention and long-term improvements in children’s oral health in Colorado communities,” said Lisa Konen, communications director, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S. Nearly half of Colorado’s 1.2 million children will have cavities by the time they reach kindergarten. The consequences of untreated cavities include more missed school days, behavioral problems and lower grade point averages. DDCOF works to eradicate childhood tooth decay – a nearly 100 percent preventable disease – by supporting projects that increase access to dental care and address the causes of tooth decay.

For more information, visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).

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#### **About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation**

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation’s mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation's initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority. A core belief is that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, efforts to improve oral health will result in a healthier Colorado overall. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).