



# Open Funding GUIDELINES

SPRING 2019

**Everyone has a smile.** Oral health impacts Coloradans of all ages and, at a broader level, affects the well-being of our communities.

**Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's (DDCOF) mission is to elevate the well-being of all Coloradans by advancing oral health equity.**

We are improving access to comprehensive oral health care, promoting systems and support services that prevent tooth decay, and emphasizing the vital connection of oral health to systemic health.

We seek to provide all Coloradans with a continuum of accessible dental care and education across a lifetime. Working with communities, we can strengthen opportunities for people that have historically been underserved.

We are stronger together. Join us on our journey to improve **oral health equity**.

## Oral health equity

**Every person can have a healthy mouth because the necessary resources are attainable, regardless of life circumstances.**

We believe every person should have the opportunity to live their healthiest life. The connection between oral health and overall health goes beyond the physical body. Oral health equity includes exploring the social determinants of health a person faces. These are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness.

## What the data show us

Health disparities, like race and ethnicity, income, geography and age, greatly impact a person's oral health.

- **68% of children ages 0-18** reporting poor oral health live in families with incomes less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. (2017 Colorado Health Access Survey)
- **More than half of Coloradans** over the age of 65 lack dental coverage. (The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)
- **Only 51% of African Americans** visited the dentist in the last year compared to 66% of all Coloradans. (The Colorado Health Institute)
- **Less than half of U.S. women** have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy. (The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System)
- **Fifty-seven of Colorado's 64 counties** are designated a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. (The U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration)
- **Just 63% of Coloradans** with incomes at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level report both good physical and oral health status. (The Colorado Health Institute)

## Our approach to funding partnerships

Every community has unique needs, assets and priorities. We want to understand what your community needs to be healthy. Our work begins by cultivating partnerships with organizations. Together we can address community needs and implement activities to improve oral health. These partnerships make the greatest impact in Colorado communities. [Read more about how we measure progress.](#) During 2019, we will prioritize the following focus areas from our strategic framework:

	ACCESS TO CARE	PREVENTION OF TOOTH DECAY	CONNECTIONS TO OVERALL HEALTH
GOAL	All individuals have affordable, accessible and comprehensive oral health care.	Effective and innovative programs are available for prevention and early intervention of tooth decay.	Oral health is addressed and improved through overall health.
FOCUS POPULATION	Historically overlooked population groups that face oral health and overall health disparities. Populations may experience disparities due to race and/or ethnicity, geography, socio-economic status or age.	Historically overlooked children ages 0-6, students (K-4 <sup>th</sup> grade) and pregnant women.	Adults ages 60+.

## Grant guidelines

Applications from Colorado-based nonprofit organizations whose activities occur in-state and benefit Coloradans will be considered. We encourage grant applications to draw our attention to different approaches to address and achieve oral health equity. Proposals should demonstrate impact toward our strategic focus areas of access to care, prevention of tooth decay, and connections to overall health.

We will review all grant funding requests, including:

- **Programmatic purpose:** 1) an existing program that would have greater impact through additional financial support, or 2) a new program or innovative idea that would have a fresh impact on the community and would benefit from startup financial support.
- **Operating purpose:** supporting the ongoing operations of an organization, including regular personnel, administrative, fundraising and office expenses.

### Eligible organizations include:

- Colorado organizations classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).
- Tax-supported Colorado organizations including state or local governments or schools.
- New or emerging organizations without 501(c)(3) status that apply through a tax-exempt organization acting as fiscal sponsor. These organizations must provide written documentation of the relationship with the fiscal sponsor.



## What we will fund

- Community-based interventions
- Clinical interventions and dental equipment
- Education and awareness programs
- More specifically, we will consider programs and activities that:
  - Increase access to affordable, accessible and comprehensive oral health.
  - Aim to prevent tooth decay in young children, from birth through age 10, and pregnant women.
  - Prioritize oral health care for adults age 60+.
- Efforts and interventions that utilize data to inform, measure and develop work:
  - Innovative grant applications designed to meet community need through proven or unproven efforts.
  - Grant applications for traditional methods proven to improve oral health. When possible, use data to inform your proposal concept to help us better understand your desired outcome.

## What we will not fund

- Grants to individuals
- Debt retirement
- Building construction and renovations
- Membership campaigns
- Grants for medical, scientific or academic research
- Financial support for political candidates
- Lobbying efforts
- Legal services
- Scholarships
- Patient assistance funds that cover individual medical, dental, mental health or pharmaceutical costs
- Pass through organizations
- For profit entities
- Fundraising campaigns
- Water filling stations
- Public policy work
- Transportation vehicles

## When applying, keep in mind

- The application must include specific goals, objectives and deliverables to be carried out within the grant period.
- Applicants may request support for one year or up to three years (multi-year request).
- Applications between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per year for up to three years will be considered.
- Requests may be no more than 20% of the organization's total fiscal year budget.
- Only one application per organization can be submitted each open grant application cycle.
- Before a current grant partner will be awarded additional grant funding for the same purpose, a final report must be submitted.
- Grantees awarded funding will be asked to participate in evaluation activities including a one-day Learning Network.

## Application instructions

- Begin by reviewing the grant guidelines above. If you'd like to discuss your application before submitting it or if you have questions, please contact [grants@ddpco.com](mailto:grants@ddpco.com) or (303) 889-8633.
- Submit your application through our [online application portal](#). Applications are due by midnight **Monday, July 15, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Returning Applicants

- Applications will be assigned to a member of our programs team for thorough analysis. Your assigned program officer will contact you and may request a site visit.
- If your application does not meet these guidelines, you will receive a notice of early declination by August 15, 2019.
- We will reach out to you about the final funding decision for your application by November 30, 2019.

## Learn more

No one knows your community like you do. We welcome the opportunity to have a conversation about how your organization's work fits within our strategic focus areas.

Please contact **(303) 889-8633** or [grants@ddpco.com](mailto:grants@ddpco.com) to start the conversation.

If you'd like to receive emails about future funding opportunities, please email [hello@ddpco.com](mailto:hello@ddpco.com).



## How we define and understand key terms

### **Oral Health Equity**

Every person can have a healthy mouth because the necessary resources are attainable, regardless of life circumstances.

### **Affordable**

Families can pay for the cost of dental care and still afford basic living necessities.

### **Accessible**

Oral health care that can be obtained in a timely manner that is personally and culturally relevant.

### **Comprehensive**

A full-spectrum of oral health services are offered, including preventive and restorative care and disease management.

### **Prevention**

To protect, promote and maintain oral health and well-being; includes clinical, educational and public health interventions.

### **Effective**

An intervention that produces the intended result.

### **Intervention**

Action taken to improve a clinical, environmental or societal situation.

### **Underserved**

Populations that are disadvantaged in regard to accessing oral health services based on income, geography, age and race/ethnicity.

### **Innovation and Unproven**

An idea, approach or intervention that is new and being introduced. Existing data or proof of success may not exist. Untested.

### **Older Adults**

People over the age of 60.