



Open Funding Grant Guidelines

SPRING 2022

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. For more than 20 years, the foundation has partnered with community-based organizations to provide innovative and equitable oral health care through grants, engaging with groups across the state, and supporting policy and systems change. We foster an ongoing dialogue to identify and test oral health solutions. We believe partners will draw our attention to unique approaches to move toward oral health equity.

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

How we Define Oral Health Equity

Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain their full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What the Data Show us

It’s well documented that health disparities are closely linked to race and ethnicity, income, geography, and age. Oral health outcomes are no different. Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation has taken a multifaceted approach to achieving oral health equity by investing in the areas that research and data tell us are most pressing. As a result, the foundation is funding programs that do the following:

(Click on each area to see more details and data).

Prevention	Prevent tooth decay among pregnant people and the youngest Coloradans.
Access to Care	Invest in Colorado communities most impacted by oral health disparities in the following regions: San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. East Denver metro: Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, Swansea, Elyria, Globeville, and/or Northwest Aurora (generally: North Aurora, Hoffman Heights/Jewell Heights, and Fitzsimmons neighborhoods).
Workforce	Increase the presence of underrepresented communities in dental health professions.

2022 Open Funding Opportunity

Applications from Colorado-based nonprofit organizations and institutions whose proposals strongly align to the foundation's funding priorities, occur in-state, and benefit Coloradans will be considered. Eligible organizations include:

- 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 a fiscal sponsor. These organizations must provide written documentation of the relationship with the fiscal sponsor.



What we will Fund

Grant requests will be accepted for the focus areas outlined below. Applicants will have the opportunity to select the focus area that aligns with their request as part of the application process. Eligible uses of funds may include, but are not limited to, programs that address:

Access to Care in Place-based Communities (must align to defined regions)

- Authentically engage and center the most impacted populations in identifying solutions to address oral health disparities.
- Cultivate collaboration among community dental health and other safety-net providers, advocates, leaders, and community organizations and institutions to develop shared oral health priorities and actions.
- Support culturally relevant strategies to reduce barriers to and improve oral health across the lifespan.
- Reduce barriers to care including transportation, education, benefits, and enrollment.
- Improve the recruitment and retention of oral health staff who serve overlooked populations.
- Initiate or scale evidence-based and promising programs that improve oral health outcomes.
- Provide patient assistance funds as part of a broader oral health program of reducing cost as a barrier to accessing care.
- Carry out prevention activities described in the Prevention area of funding below.

Prevention of Tooth Decay in Prenatal and Early Childhood

- Integrate and/or introduce oral health services into clinical or community settings, such as preschools, childcare centers, home visitation programs, clinics, health centers, or other.
- Coordination and/or provision of patient-centered approaches to addressing caries that are minimally invasive, safe, effective, and timely, such as use of silver diamine fluoride, interim therapeutic restoration, or teledentistry services for screenings and education.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of preventive oral health practices among parents/caregivers to increase adoption of positive oral health promotion behaviors, including use of needed dental services.
- Directly tie oral health care services to broader work with young children and/or pregnant people, resulting in securing a dental home for the patient.
- Enhance integration of oral health care into prenatal safety-net services.
- Implement programs that are scalable or replicable in advancing preventive oral health care among the targeted age group.
- Provide patient assistance funds to target population as part of a broader oral health program of reducing cost as a barrier to accessing prevention services.



Workforce: Building Pipelines for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Dental Health Professions

According to the Colorado Health Institute, Black and Hispanic patients with providers of the same race are more likely to consistently seek preventive care. They are also more likely to be satisfied with their health care overall.

In Colorado, dental health professionals, particularly at higher-paid levels such as dentists and hygienists, are white. Inversely, those most impacted by oral health disparities are communities of color. The foundation seeks to fund programs that increase matriculation and graduation of people of color and low-income people in dental education and training programs. We believe that this investment will improve the patient experience and potentially lead to improved oral health outcomes for people of color.

This grant opportunity is available for, but not limited to, high schools/school districts, career and college readiness programs, mentoring programs, youth-serving organizations, graduate-school preparation programs, workforce centers, and any program that connects students and/or education-seeking adults to career and educational development opportunities. Priority will be given to those organizations and programs serving students and adults from traditionally underrepresented communities in dental hygiene and dentistry, typically Black, Indigenous, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, and first-generation college students.

We seek to fund programs that provide participants with meaningful and comprehensive support to prepare for training and education in a dental career including dental assisting, dental hygiene, and dentistry.

Eligible uses of funds may include, but are not limited to, programs that:

- Increase knowledge about the value of dental health professions to students seeking educational and training opportunities.
- Increase and support the readiness of students and working-age adults in education and training programs for dental health professions.
- Provide information to prospective students, prioritizing BIPOC students, about the variety of dental health careers and requirements for successful graduation from dental health career programs.
- Increase understanding about—and provide support in seeking—financial aid to fund dental health education and training.
- Assist students in completing applications for dental health training and education programs.
- Institutionalize outreach for dental health training and education career programs into the overall offerings of existing career and college advisement programs.

Grant Guidelines and Application

Eligible organizations include:

- Those 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 a fiscal sponsor; these organizations must provide written documentation of the relationship with the fiscal sponsor.

Grant Guidelines and Application Continued...

The grant application will include the following:

- Key oral health goals and priorities for the area of funding of your grant request.
- The expected impact of the programs for which you are requesting funding.
- Key milestones and activities the organization is undertaking to achieve the oral health goals and priorities.
- How the organization undertakes evaluation and uses data to inform the development, implementation, and improvement of its programs.
- Demographics of the participants and community participating and being served under this request.
- If applicable to the organization, key equity goals and priorities of the organization (not limited to oral health).
- Financial information, including budgets, profit and loss statements, balance sheets, and annual audits (if applicable).

Additional Information About the Grant Opportunity

- Applicants may request a one-year or multi-year (up to three years) grant of up to \$100,000 each year.
- Requests may be no more than 20 percent of the organization's total fiscal year budget.
- For interested organizations that receive funding, the foundation will provide additional evaluation technical assistance.
- Grantees awarded funding will be asked to participate in DDCOF evaluation activities including grant reporting, focus group participation, or other methodologies to capture feedback and learnings.
- Final grant award amounts will be informed by multiple factors, including the request amount relative to the oral health activities being proposed, the alignment of the proposed program to the foundation's priorities, and the amount of funding available relative to the number of grants approved.
- For institutions or organizations, please contact a program officer if you are seeking to request funding for more than one focus area under this grant opportunity.
- Organizations that were previously funded by DDCOF with a contract expiration date of 12/31/22 ("Previously Awarded 2022 Grantees") are still encouraged to apply for this opportunity. If funds are awarded under this opportunity, contracts with Previously Awarded 2022 Grantees will be amended to reflect funding commensurate with the timeline of this funding cycle. If this applies to your organization, you should have received communication from your program officer with more details. Please contact one of our staff members if you have not heard from us or if you seek further clarity.
- Grants that are approved will have a contract start date of September 1, 2022. Grant periods are 12 months.
- We strongly encourage all applicants to contact a program officer before applying.

What we will not Fund Under the Grant Opportunity

- Grants to individuals
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Capital campaigns, building construction, renovations, or other capital expenditures*
- Significant medical or dental equipment costs (\$50,000 or more)*
- Membership or annual fund campaigns
- Grants for medical, scientific, or academic research
- Lobbying activities, including supporting political candidates or voter registration drives
- Legal services
- Scholarships
- For-profit entities
- Fundraising campaigns or events
- Water-filling stations
- Vehicles such as vans or buses
- Projects that exclusively serve religious purposes or include proselytization

*If you seek funding for capital costs and expenditure, please explore our [oral health capital loan fund](#).

Next Steps and Key Dates

- Thoroughly review grant criteria and guidelines.
- Attend the Grant Information Webinar on **March 18, 2022**. The webinar will be available for streaming on our website afterward.
- The application portal will go live on **April 1, 2022**. Applicants can begin their requests on that date.
- Deadline for grant submission is **May 10, 2022**. Late or incomplete grant applications will not be considered.
- Contact a staff member to discuss your grant idea and to determine alignment with the foundation's funding priorities.
- FAQs and grant portal support will be available shortly after the webinar.

Speak to a Grantmaking Team Member

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 email the following staff members for more information prior to submitting your request, and they will contact you to discuss your proposal:

- Prevention/Early Childhood, Mara Holiday, mholiday@ddpco.com
- Dental Health Careers Pipeline, Mirella Chavez, mchavez@ddpco.com
- Access to Care in Place-based Communities, Lori Casillas, lcasillas@ddpco.com
- For questions about the application portal, please contact grants@ddpco.com

Click [here](#) to receive emails about future funding opportunities.

How we Define and Understand Key Terms

BIPOC

Black, Indigenous, and people of color

Comprehensive

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

Effective

An intervention that produces the intended result.

Overlooked

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

Prevention

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

