



Program Overview

New York State Dental Foundation

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About My Healthy Smile NY

We believe a viable solution for addressing oral health challenges in New York is the deployment of Community Health Dental Coordinators (CDHCs) in strategic regions across the state who can leverage the power of a support network and modern technology to connect individuals to care.

A CDHC acts as a bridge between the community and clinical care with a working knowledge of dental disease processes, the dental delivery system and disease prevention strategies.

The CDHC is a Registered Dental Assistant or Registered Dental Hygienist with additional training in care coordination and motivational interviewing. In addition to engaging in community-based outreach to promote oral health and disease prevention, they can interact directly with populations who are at risk for dental disease and are unsure of how to access dental care or community services.

This team of CDHCs will also be actively engaged in promoting the dental professions in their regions, whether delivering oral health education to troops of young Girl Scouts, or visiting high school career fairs, introducing educational pathways to the dental professions will plant seeds to inspire diverse groups of young people not only to take good care of their teeth, but also to consider a career in oral health.

Armed with the latest telehealth technology and a unique smartphone application, our CDHCs will become an essential part of the patient navigation and community education system, poised to gather crucial data that can help inform policy and decisions that impact the health of all New Yorkers.

Challenges affecting the oral health care of New Yorkers today

Limited access to care

Even with the robust Medicaid benefits available in New York, there are vulnerable populations falling through the cracks and major issues with emergency department overcrowding. For foster care children, individuals with developmental disabilities, and the elderly, there are often challenges in accessing care due to a shortage of Medicaid providers and logistical barriers.

Workforce crisis

The workforce crisis has been particularly acute in rural areas, where there are already shortages of dental professionals. Additionally, dental professionals across the state are nearing retirement age, and there are not enough new graduates to fill the gaps. This is leading to increased competition for dental professionals and difficulty attracting and retaining staff.

Lack of oral health literacy

There is often a lack of understanding by patients about how to access providers who accept Medicaid Managed Care plans, what is covered by insurance, the out-of-pocket costs associated with treatment, and the importance of preventative care and immunizations.

Goals and target populations

EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE

- Demonstrate the efficacy of the Community Dental Health Coordinator as an effective workforce model for expanding access to care for New York's most vulnerable populations.
- Utilize telehealth technology to conduct oral health screenings and connect patients to care.

PROMOTE THE DENTAL PROFESSIONS

- Develop a pipeline of dental support professionals to meet the oral health needs of New Yorkers.
- Support initiatives to diversify the future dental professional talent pool.

INCREASE ORAL HEALTH LITERACY

- Increase oral health literacy to provide early intervention and prevention for the 0-3 population.
- Reduce emergency department utilization by increasing oral health literacy amongst Medicaid-eligible individuals and families.
- Increase awareness about the HPV vaccination and prevention of oropharyngeal cancer.



MEDICAID ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

Approximately 390,000 emergency department visits in New York State in 2022 were dental related where the patient may not have needed emergency care.

CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

New York's child welfare system had 14,358 children in foster care in 2021; 61% of the children admitted to foster care in 2021 did not receive preventative services.

INFANTS & CHILDREN 0-3

By prioritizing oral health care from an early age, parents and caregivers can set their children on a path to a lifetime of healthy smiles.

ELDERLY ADULTS

Elderly adults often face limited income, absence of health insurance, frailty, anxiety, depression, and other mobility issues that make it hard to access health care.

INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Due to myriad risk factors that they may experience, IDD patients are particularly vulnerable to poor oral health and have more complex oral health care needs.

THOSE AT-RISK FOR ORAL CANCER

Incidence rates of oral and oropharyngeal cancers have risen significantly over the past 20 years. Tobacco use and HPV are the greatest risk factors.

Metrics

EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE	METRIC	1	2	3	4
Gather baseline data on target populations.	Data collected.	✓			
Partner with senior centers to deliver oral health events for seniors.	Events attended.	4	16	16	18
Partner with Special Olympics to staff Special Smiles screenings.	Events attended.	4	16	16	18
Utilize the My Healthy Smile NY app to conduct virtual screenings for patients aged 0-3.	Children screened.		100	100	100
Increase the number of children receiving preventative oral health care upon entry into the foster care system.	Children receiving preventative care.		1,200	1,200	1,200

PROMOTE THE DENTAL PROFESSIONS	METRIC	1	2	3	4
Develop a dental workforce toolkit for promoting the dental professions.	Toolkit published.			✓	
Visit high school career fairs to promote the dental professions.	Events attended.	4	16	16	18
Partner with SUNY to introduce CDHC training in New York State through community college workforce development programs.	Program development complete.		✓		
Establish scholarships at each of the 9 dental hygiene schools.	# Established.	3	3	3	
Integrate new CDHCs with 13 existing CDHCs to create a support network for sharing best practices across the state.	Network established.	✓			

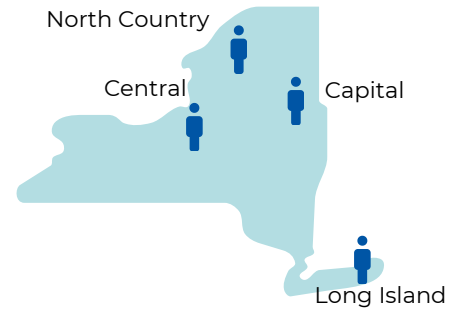
INCREASE ORAL HEALTH LITERACY	METRIC	1	2	3	4
Deliver programming to expectant mothers.	Number of expectant mother participants.		480	480	480
Deliver Early Head Start “Teach the Teacher” training sessions.	Percentage of Early Head Start participant sites.	50%	100%	100%	100%
Launch My Healthy Smile NY app campaign.	Campaign launched.		✓		
Host “Don’t Ignore Your Mouth” oral cancer awareness programs to screen for oral cancer and promote the HPV vaccination.	Events held.	2	4	4	6

Timeline

2024 Identify & Train (4) CDHCs & Workforce Development Planning

We will hire a Program Director, then recruit and underwrite training for four (4) CDHCs to work within areas that correspond to the regional public health departments (Capital, Central, Long Island and North Country). They will build a network among public health departments, Federally Qualified Health Clinics, hospitals, and providers in their region.

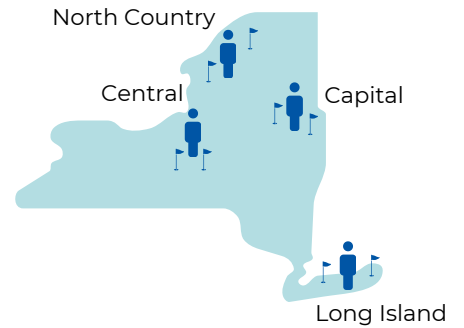
We will create a Dental Workforce Toolkit to promote the dental professions across the state.



2025 (8) Access to Care Events & Launch of My Healthy Smile NY App

Each CDHC will utilize their network to connect targeted groups to dental homes and other resources. They will coordinate at least two (2) oral health care events that address key gaps and disparities in care for their region.

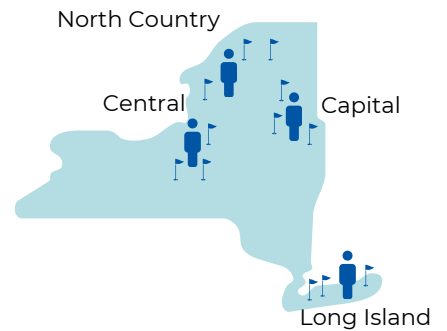
We will also build a marketing campaign around the My Healthy Smile NY app.



2026 (12) Access to Care Events & Workforce Development Implementation

CDHC's will expand their reach by coordinating at least three (3) oral health care events that address gaps and disparities.

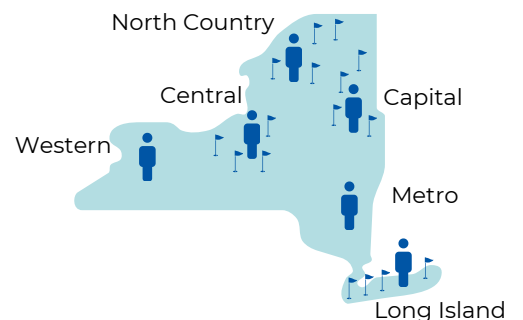
We will begin full implementation of workforce development efforts.



2027 (16) Access to Care Events & Training of (2) Additional CDHCs

CDHCs will expand their reach by coordinating at least four (4) oral health care events that address gaps and disparities. In addition, two new CDHCs will be recruited and trained to increase coverage and access to additional regions of the state, including Western and Metro.

Report results and data to the Governor, Legislature, and Department of Health for review and approval for the next 4 years.



Budget

	2024	2025	2026	2027
Program Director	\$144,680	\$151,914	\$159,509	\$167,484
CDHCs	\$362,044	\$380,146	\$399,153	\$509,622
Marketing	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$100,000
Event costs		\$80,000	\$120,000	\$160,000
Training & Equipment	\$20,000			\$10,000
Dental Workforce Toolkit	\$80,000	\$80,000		
App Design & Hosting	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
	\$721,724	\$832,060	\$808,662	\$952,106

\$3,314,552

The overall budget for the project is \$3,314,552, which includes **\$2,884,552 proposed for inclusion in the 2024 Executive Budget**. This will cover salary and benefits for a Program Director and Community Dental Health Coordinators, a comprehensive marketing campaign, and creation of the Dental Workforce Toolkit.

The New York State Dental Foundation is committed to raising **\$430,000 in private funding** to underwrite costs related to Community Dental Health Coordinator training and equipment needs, app development, and costs associated with hosting oral health care screenings and events in the community.

Community Dental Health Coordinator Training program

The CDHC curriculum was developed by an ADA-convened panel of experts in education, public health, social work and dentistry. It is designed for online delivery, accompanied by a series of in-person or virtual sessions.

Students must complete an internship project at the end of their program that gives them the opportunity to utilize the skills they've acquired and gain confidence. Staff from the ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention provide support to course instructors and students throughout this phase.

The following are educational sites that offer the CDHC curriculum through continuing education programs or as part of existing programs in dental hygiene and dental assisting:

[Eastern Iowa Community Colleges](#)

[Catawba Valley Community College](#) (Hickory, NC)

[Alamance Community College](#) (Graham, NC)

[Big Sandy Community & Technical College](#) (Versailles, KY)

CATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 – OCTOBER 22, 2023

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 312-hour program is designed for students who are interested in exploring community dental health. Community Dental Health Coordinators are health care workers who help promote oral health in underserved communities. A CDHC is essentially a Community Health Worker with an emphasized skill set related to oral health. Working under the direction of a Dentist and in partnership with a community clinic, CDHCs will provide oral health education, prevention intervention, provide low level dental care, and help patients navigate a complex public health system to receive adequate oral health care. CDHCs will be working in the communities, peoples' homes and other locations under the same concept and realm of a CHW. The CDHC will also establish an emergency triage system and an organized oral health referral system with the Community Clinic or Federally Qualified Health System and dentists with whom they will be working.

PREREQUISITES: Dental Assistant II, CDA or Registered Dental Hygienist

Modules are selectively pulled from ADA's curriculum. Dental Hygienist & Assistants are NOT required to complete some modules and therefore left out of CVCC's curriculum.

Dental Health Advocacy and Outreach. Develops foundational knowledge and practical skills needed to address and affect oral health and wellness in a community. Covers community diagnostics, networking, resource mapping, communication and cultural competence including motivational interviewing, human behaviors, and health concepts emphasizing oral health. Patient assessment, feedback, education, and behavior change interventions for dental patients included.

Communication and Cultural Competency. Impact of oral health literacy on one's health emphasized. Includes communication strategies, verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

Interviewing Skills for the Dental Advocate. Overview of patient assessment interviewing skills. Covers motivational interviewing, human behaviors, and health concepts emphasizing oral health. Patient assessment, feedback, education, and behavior change interventions for dental patients included.

Dental Health Legal and Ethical Issues. Overview of legal and ethical issues in relation to the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC). Covers policy, confidentiality and liability as well as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations. Also includes consumer protection and professional conduct.

Prevention of Oral Cancer. The CDHCs are not trained nor are they capable of detecting oral cancer; rather, they are trained to ask questions and check for presence of suspicious oral lesions. The primary task of the CDHC in oral cancer is to triage and schedule patients based on the urgency level for dental care.

Dental Care Finance. Procedures for determining dental care payment eligibility. Covers public financing available to clients as well as non-governmental third-party insurance

Community Outreach and Project. Practical application of the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) skills in a community outreach setting. Includes knowledge and skills required to organize, develop and manage integrated dental care in community-based clinics within practice standards.

Program Director

Job description

POSITION OVERVIEW

Under the supervision of the Executive Director, the Program Director will oversee the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the My Healthy Smile NY pilot program.

The Program Director will have a broad knowledge of program management principles, as well as a strategic mindset and the ability to lead a team that is dispersed across New York State.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise a team of Community Dental Health Coordinators. Devise evaluation strategies to monitor performance and determine areas for improvement. Provide support, guidance and training as needed.
- Create a forum for all Community Dental Health Coordinators in New York, including those already deployed in hospitals and other settings, to network, foster collaboration and share best practices. Identify ways to enhance efficiency and productivity and elevate the profession across the state.
- Promote the My Healthy Smile NY as spokesperson in public forums, educational sessions, and media interviews. Present on the progress of the program as requested and in a variety of presentation formats. Work with donors and stakeholders to discuss the program and its needs.
- Lead the overhaul and implementation of all technology needs of the program, including, but not limited to, MouthWatch, TeleDent, and the next-level development of the My Healthy Smile smartphone application. Ensure that implementation timelines are met, and costs are within budget.
- Work collaboratively with outside vendors to plan a strategic marketing campaign launch for the My Healthy Smile NY app and see implementation through to completion. Report on campaign results.
- Analyze data collected and create reports that demonstrate program effectiveness or areas for improvement. Ensure that all program milestones are met.
- Ensure that all program operations and activities adhere to legal guidelines, internal policies, and are in compliance with the New York State Department of Health and all other agencies.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

- Proven experience as a program or project manager or other managerial position, preferably in a health care or nonprofit setting.
- Thorough understanding of program management techniques and methods.
- Analytical mindset with great problem-solving and strategic thinking capabilities.
- Strong organizational and leadership skills.
- Exceptional knowledge of data analysis, reporting and budgeting.
- Ability to lead a team, with excellent knowledge of performance evaluation techniques.
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to give presentations and speak in public forums.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in management, health care or a related field; Master's degree is preferred.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and program management software; experience with relational databases preferred.

Community Dental Health Coordinator

Job description

POSITION OVERVIEW

Under the supervision of the Program Director, the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) will work within underserved communities, ensuring that resources reach those who benefit the most. CDHCs are trusted, knowledgeable dental professionals who often come from the communities they serve.

Acting as a “dental navigator”, the CDHC conducts patient-centered work with a focus on addressing oral health disparities and enhancing access to dental care for marginalized populations. Core activities include community engagement, culturally sensitive patient navigation, data tracking, and contributing to dental disease prevention efforts.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Help the community navigate the complexities of the health care system. Conduct phone calls, telehealth appointments, screenings, and face-to-face visits as needed. Help patients access services, schedule and find transportation to appointments, and ultimately secure a dental home.
- Build a network within the community. This includes facilitating conversations about the community's oral health needs and promoting cultural competence among providers, case managers, and agencies that serve diverse populations. Maintain knowledge of community resources.
- Conduct community outreach efforts. Provide culturally appropriate oral health education on topics related to disease prevention. Collaborate with organizations that serve marginalized populations to raise awareness about the My Healthy Smile NY app and oral health care events.
- Collect data to help document progress toward addressing community needs. Document activities, service plans, and results in an effective manner in an appropriate health records system while strictly adhering to the policies and procedures in place and maintaining confidentiality.
- Coordinate access to care events within the community. Organize details of events that provide screenings or care for targeted populations. Coordinate with mobile care units, venues, and volunteers to execute organized and successful events that bring care to the community.
- Promote the dental professions in the community. Facilitate opportunities for young individuals to explore careers within the dental professions. Conduct workshops, presentations, and informational sessions about oral health professions at community gatherings, schools, and events.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrated understanding, appreciation, and awareness of cultural, social, and economic diversity in the community being served.
- Self-motivated, goal-oriented, organized, able to work independently, and excellent with time management.
- Capable of critical thinking and problem-solving; maintains professionalism under pressure.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to give presentations and speak in public forums.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Registered Dental Assistant or Registered Dental Hygienist; health-related Bachelor's degree preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook required; experience in relational databases preferred.
- Proficiency in Spanish is preferred.
- Verifiable good driving record and reliable transportation.

Successful candidates will complete CDHC training within 12 months of employment. Tuition expenses associated with the training will be covered by the employer.

Marketing campaign & smartphone app

The My Healthy Smile NY smartphone application is currently managed by the New York State Dental Association. It was initially developed by OCV Apps, a company that specializes in mobile app development for public safety organizations across the country. Funding to develop the app was made possible by New York State through the Dental Demonstration Project. The app offers quick access to items of public interest and is easy to use.

Before launching a public marketing campaign for the app, the New York State Dental Foundation will first work with the OCV Apps team to update the app's features:

- **Transition management of the app to New York State Dental Foundation;**
- **Update the “Find My Resources” feature;**
- **Create a new game geared to replace the existing link to “Brush Up”; and**
- **Work toward integration with TeleDent to allow CDHCs to respond to inquiries.**

The goal of launching a public marketing campaign is to promote and raise awareness about the **My Healthy Smile NY** app and oral health as a part of overall health. This campaign will utilize various marketing channels to reach a wide audience, emphasizing the importance of oral health and how this app can make a positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers:

- **A catchy tagline**, consistently used across all materials for brand recognition.
- **Website landing page** featuring testimonials, app features, download links, FAQ, and engaging blog content related to oral health.
- **Social media engagement** with regular posts, graphics and videos promoting better oral health and relevant hashtags.
- **Influencer partnerships** and collaborations; host live Q&A sessions on social media with influencers to generate buzz.
- **Educational online webinars**, featuring dental experts discussing the importance of oral health and how the app can help.
- **Public service announcements** with regional TV and radio stations to air spots highlighting the app's benefits and its role in improving oral health statewide.
- **Community outreach** and promotion of the app via the CDHC's at all My Healthy Smile NY program sponsored events.
- **Advertisements** targeting Medicaid eligible New Yorkers.
- **Widespread media coverage** and press releases to feature articles about the app and its potential impact on the community.

MY HEALTHY SMILE NY Mobile App Built by



**Introducing
Our NEW App**
Navigating critical information
has never been **easier**.

- **FIND A PROVIDER**
- **PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
- **APPOINTMENT REMINDERS**
- **SMILE HEALTH**
- **DENTAL IQ QUIZ**
- **LOCAL RESOURCES**
- **MUCH MORE**

Available for download today!



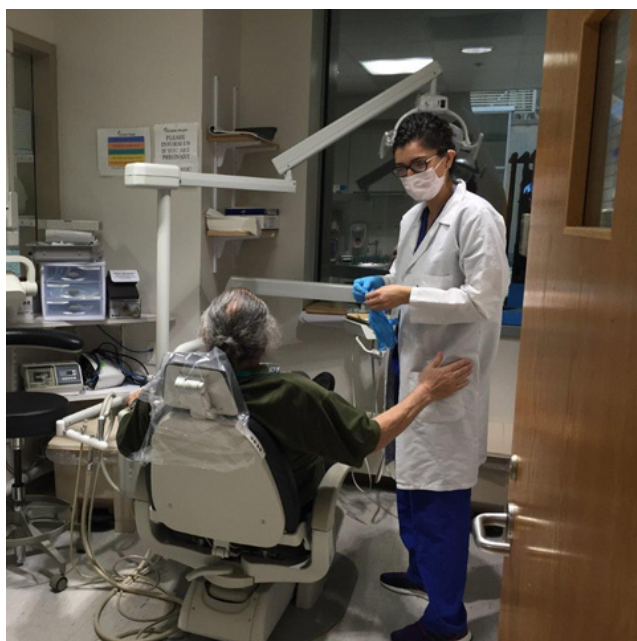
Dental workforce toolkit

The dental workforce encompasses various professionals dedicated to promoting and preserving oral health in the community. It comprises general and specialized dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and community dental health coordinators. New York State is actively engaged in numerous initiatives that directly impact this workforce, ranging from ensuring an adequate supply of professionals to formulating public insurance reimbursement policies and overseeing individual practitioners and their practice settings. The multifaceted nature of healthcare roles and the intricacies associated with healthcare sector funding and regulation can pose substantial challenges in devising workforce policies and programs.

Although shortages in the dental workforce have been a persistent issue, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing scarcities and gave rise to new ones. Prior to the pandemic, shortages were well-documented in both rural and urban underserved areas across the state. The pandemic-induced challenges further exacerbated these deficiencies. Factors such as an aging population of dentists and heightened competition has contributed to shortages that will only worsen in the forthcoming years if we do not take action now.

The healthcare workforce overall has grappled with issues of diversity and representation for decades. Professions demanding higher levels of expertise, including medicine, dentistry, and nursing, have traditionally struggled with underrepresentation of minority groups. Conversely, in lower-skilled roles such as certified nurse assistants and direct support professionals, individuals from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds are overrepresented, often in low-paying positions. These disparities perpetuate healthcare access and equity challenges within minority communities and perpetuate broader social inequalities. Ensuring that dental health workforce policies actively promote health equity will be imperative in advancing the overall oral health of the population.

A robust and skilled dental workforce is essential to meeting the healthcare needs of New Yorkers. This web-based toolkit will be developed to provide actionable resources to groups working to address workforce issues within their own regions.



- **Overview of Dental Professions**
- **Educational Pathways**
- **Licensing and Certification**
- **Career Opportunities**
- **Strategies for Promoting Diversity & Inclusion**
- **Professional Organizations with Contact Info**
- **Mentorship Guidance**
- **Community Outreach Materials & Templates**
- **Information on Scholarships & Financial Aid**
- **Getting Involved with Advocacy & Public Policy**
- **Digital & Social Media Engagement Strategies**
- **Success Stories and Role Models**
- **Resources and References**

Evidence of success with the CDHC workforce model

The State of Tennessee, through its Healthy Smiles Initiative launched in 2021, supported Interfaith Dental with \$15,180,000 over five years to expand their **SMILE ON 65+** program and provide training for Community Dental Health Coordinators.

SMILE ON 65+ is an innovative, sustainable initiative in the state of Tennessee with the goal of improving the overall health and quality of life of low-income, mobile older adults age 65+ through access to oral healthcare services and community education. SMILE ON 65+ evaluates, educates, and navigates older adults into dental homes and then transports, treats, and repeats. As the lead agency of SMILE ON 65+, Interfaith Dental built a network of care for older adults and transformed oral health for older adults in Tennessee. Their network is currently made up of 20 partners with 34 locations.

Community Dental Health Coordinators have been essential to the success of the SMILE ON 65+ program. Like our My Healthy Smile NY program, Interfaith Dental largely had to develop workflows from the ground up since the CDHC model is relatively new. Their CDHCs were able to:

- Develop relationships with nonprofits, clinics, government and other agencies that support older adults.
- Create regional resource guides to connect older adults to basic needs support services for transportation, food, utilities, housing, and behavioral health.
- Provide training to partner clinics on using silver diamine fluoride and increase usage across their network.
- Help 8 out of 10 patients establish a dental home.
- Support partner organizations by providing continuing education on oral health care for older adults.

Additionally, SMILE ON 65+ funds allowed several clinics to expand their staff, schedules, or physical clinic spaces.

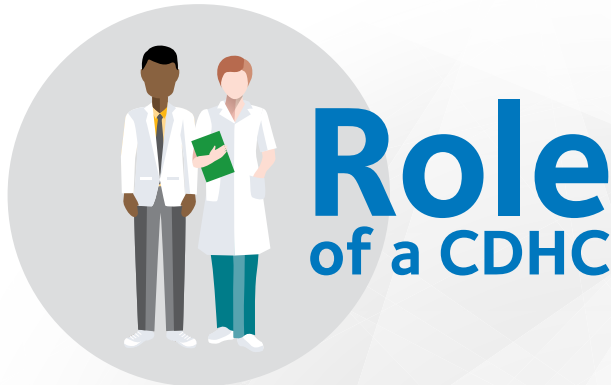
At the end of the SMILE ON 65+ grant, their CDHC team developed a comprehensive manual to serve as a guide for future additions to the team and outline best practices for any working CDHC to help provide the best and most consistent care to those they serve. **Interfaith Dental has retained 100% of their Community Dental Health Coordinators since the program's inception.**

By providing quality dental care to older adults, Interfaith Dental was able to improve their oral health and overall quality of life.

Analysis of their screening data across the duration of the program was able to show a **reduction in the number of older adults experiencing pain by 20%**, a **reduction of untreated decay by 30%**, a **reduction of difficulty chewing by 20%**, and a **reduction in embarrassment about their smile by 12%**. The program created over 6,538 dentures and partials for 3,394 unique patients, giving older adults the confidence to smile again.

The Value of Community Dental Health Coordinators

Based on a 6-month pilot of CDHCs in four Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)



A Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) acts as a bridge between the community and clinical care with a working knowledge of dental disease processes, the dental delivery system and disease prevention strategies.

Connecting to Care –



6,000

12 CDHCs connected over **6,000 patients** to comprehensive dental care.



184

In Virginia, **1 CDHC** connected **184 children** aged 0–3 to comprehensive dental care.



Integrating CDHCs into clinical workflow improves patient outcomes.



19%

At **1 FQHC** in New Jersey, CDHCs **increased the overall HPV vaccine rates by 19%**.

October 26, 2023

**New York State Dental Foundation
Albany, New York**

The American Dental Association is pleased to offer this letter of support for the proposed program titled “My Healthy Smile NY”.

This innovative and well- designed plan covers several critical aspects of oral health for populations who need care the most.

The dental workforce pipeline is in need of career promotion to ensure access to care particularly in rural areas of New York. The Community Dental Health Coordinator program proposed within “My Healthy Smile NY” is one way to engage young people to pursue oral health training programs while improving health literacy for vulnerable families within their region.

The CDHC curriculum was designed by the ADA years ago to develop the community health worker skill set for dental professionals. Since its development, the program has grown organically to provide dental pathways for access to care while reducing use of a hospital ED by patients with dental concerns.

The state of Tennessee recently added a specific state budget item for training of CDHCs and the Indian Health Service launched the program this year within their dental service units. Two dental schools now have the curriculum for use in their states.

The need for good oral health is overlooked and sometimes taken for granted. Dentistry is essential health care because of its role in evaluating, diagnosing, preventing or treating oral diseases, which can therefore affect systemic health and the entire body.

We strongly encourage you to consider the true overall value of your dental department and look forward to having a conversation with you about the significant ability to leverage this resource for the benefit of your entire organization.

Sincerely,

**Jane Grover DDS MPH
Senior Director Center for Public and Population Health
American Dental Association
Chicago, Illinois**



September 26, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) to express our wholehearted support for the New York State Dental Foundation's My Healthy Smile NY pilot program. We commend the Foundation's commitment to improving oral health outcomes across the state of New York.

The need for comprehensive and accessible oral health care has never been more critical. Disparities in oral health outcomes persist, particularly among underserved populations. The My Healthy Smile NY program, with its focus on improving oral health literacy, promoting the dental professions, and expanding access to care, is a transformative step toward addressing these disparities.

NYSDA is committed to supporting the My Healthy Smile NY program through various means, including professional guidance, advocacy, and outreach. Our network of dedicated dental professionals across the state stands ready to contribute their expertise and support to help achieve the program's objectives.

We look forward to collaborating closely with the New York State Dental Foundation to ensure that the My Healthy Smile NY program realizes its full potential and has a positive and lasting impact on the oral health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Hill", is written over the typed name.

Greg Hill, JD, CAE
Executive Director



ALBANY MED Health System

GLENS FALLS HOSPITAL

C. R. Wood Cancer Center

Vickie Yattaw, RN, OCN

Oncology Education and Support Services Manager

December 4, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the C. R. Wood Cancer Center at Glens Falls Hospital to express our support of the New York State Dental Foundation's My Healthy Smile NY pilot program. We are excited for the collaboration and access to care that this program will help provide.

The need for comprehensive and accessible oral health care for the oncology patient is a crucial part of their cancer care. Patients who have oral cancers and need to undergo radiation all need dental evaluations prior to treatment. Patients who need bisphosphonate therapies need dental evaluation and follow up care to assess for osteonecrosis of the jaw. Access to dental professionals that specialize in these areas are limited by both availability of providers in our area and access to affordable dental insurances.

The C.R. Wood Cancer Center is committed to supporting the My Healthy Smile NY program by collaborating on outreach programs and education on the importance of HPV vaccinations as a cancer prevention.

We look forward to collaborating with the New York State Dental Foundation to ensure that the My Healthy Smile NY program has a positive and lasting impact on the community within our service area.

Sincerely,

Vickie Yattaw

Vickie Yattaw, RN, OCN

Oncology Education and Support Services Manager



December 13th, 2023

Subject: Letter of Support for My Healthy Smile NY Pilot Program

I am writing on behalf of the Stony Brook Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) grant program to share our enthusiastic support for the My Healthy Smile NY program, particularly in recognizing the invaluable role that Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) will play in promoting the HPV vaccine and raising awareness about the importance of oral cancer screening.

My Healthy Smile NY holds great promise in advancing oral health initiatives, and we believe that the inclusion of CDHCs in this program is a strategic and commendable decision. These dedicated professionals have a unique ability to connect with communities, serving as a bridge between oral health providers and the public. Their multifaceted role extends beyond traditional oral health promotion, encompassing essential public health interventions such as advocating for the HPV vaccine and promoting awareness about oral cancer screenings.

The importance of HPV vaccination in preventing oral cancers cannot be overstated. By integrating CDHCs into the My Healthy Smile NY program, there is a tremendous opportunity to significantly increase vaccine uptake and encourage proactive cancer prevention behaviors. CDHCs, with their community-focused approach, can address barriers to vaccination, ensuring that underserved populations receive the information and resources they need.

We commend the New York State Dental Foundation's vision and its emphasis on collaboration between dental professionals, community health workers, and public health organizations.

As advocates for health equity, we are confident that the inclusion of CDHCs in the My Healthy Smile NY program will contribute to reducing disparities in HPV-related oral cancers and promote a culture of preventive oral care. We look forward to working alongside the New York State Dental Foundation to provide support to the Long Island-based CDHC to raise awareness about HPV vaccination and create a positive impact on residents in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Should you require further information or assistance from the Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) program at Stony Brook Cancer Center, please feel free to contact us. We are committed to supporting initiatives that advance oral health and cancer prevention.

Sincerely,



Annalea Trask
Program Coordinator, Cancer Prevention in Action
Office of Community Outreach & Engagement
Stony Brook Cancer Center

NEW YORK STATE DENTAL FOUNDATION – MY HEALTHY SMILE NY

LETTER OF SUPPORT

On behalf of Healthy Alliance, I am pleased to present this letter of support for the New York State Dental Foundation and their new *My Healthy Smile NY* Program.

At Healthy Alliance, our purpose is to improve health and empower the underserved. Our integrated social care network includes hundreds of clinical, behavioral, and social care providers – spanning 25 counties – who work together to connect community members with health-related social needs of all kinds to the resources they need to live a healthy life.

As an organization committed to promoting health and wellness in New York, we recognize the significant impact that oral health has on the overall well-being of individuals and communities. *My Healthy Smile NY*'s emphasis on preventive oral care, community engagement, and raising awareness about the importance of oral health resonates with our commitment to nurture healthier communities by way of addressing health-related social needs *before* they turn into medical problems.

We are proud to welcome the New York State Dental Foundation as a new affiliate and look forward to incorporating Community Dental Health Coordinators (CDHCs) into our network, allowing them to receive dental referrals and hit the ground running with an existing built-in network, gather, and track patient-level data.

We are firm believers that *My Healthy Smile NY* will serve as an effective community-based model for creating lasting and positive change for community members far and wide and are honored to provide our support.

Best Regards,

Michele Horan



Chief Operating Officer
[Healthy Alliance](https://www.healthyalliance.us)