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**IOWA RURAL DENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES PROJECT AND FIRST
COMMUNITY MATCH LOAN REPAYMENT RECIPIENT
DR. SARAH JEWETT**



L to R: Donn Hutchins, Delta Dental of Iowa President and CEO; Dr. Robert Russell, Iowa Department of Public Health Dental Director; Dr. Sarah Jewett, Family First Dental of Storm Lake; and Suzanne Heckenlaible, Delta Dental of Iowa Director of Community and Government Relations.

Ankeny, IA, November 11, 2008 – The Iowa Rural Dental Health Initiative is pleased to announce its community collaborative project, Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND). The project is designed to alleviate the critical shortage of dentists in underserved Iowa counties by enhancing the Delta Dental of Iowa Loan Repayment Program that helps dentists with their dental education debt. The goal of this project is to stimulate community matching funds to match Delta Dental's Loan Repayment Program, promote the importance of a dentist to the

community's economic growth and overall health in identified rural communities, and administer the expanded program. The Iowa Rural Dental Health Initiative is funded by a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant, Delta Dental of Iowa, and Iowa community matching grants. There will be three community matching loan repayment recipients through the FIND project over the next 12 months.

The first recipient of the FIND project is Storm Lake dentist Dr. Sarah Jewett who received a \$100,000 award for educational loan debt reduction. This award is comprised of the Delta Dental of Iowa Loan Repayment Award of \$50,000, \$28,500 from community matching grants from various Storm Lake Community Corporate Partners, and \$21,500 from a congressional authorized grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant was made possible by Iowa's Congressional delegation, including the leadership of U.S. Senators Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin.

"Delta Dental has been heavily involved in recruiting dental practitioners to make a commitment to rural Iowa," said Donn Hutchins, President and CEO, Delta Dental of Iowa. "Dr. Jewett will be a valuable member of Storm Lake and the Buena Vista County communities for years to come. The community matching program is an inspiring model to encourage other rural communities to join with Delta Dental and the FIND partners to support dentists to practice in rural Iowa and meet the oral health needs of underserved populations."

The Iowa Rural Dental Health Initiative's FIND partners include Delta Dental of Iowa, Iowa Area Development Group, Ripple Effect, University of Northern Iowa Institute of Decision Making, Iowa Department of Public Health Oral Health Bureau and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. The partnership received federal funds to be used over a one-year period starting September 1, 2008.

"We will use the federal funds to work with local communities in identified "critical shortage" areas to recruit and create economic incentives for dentists," stated Rand Fisher, President, Iowa Area Development Group. "A dental practice can have a significant impact on that community in addition to improving the access to dental care."

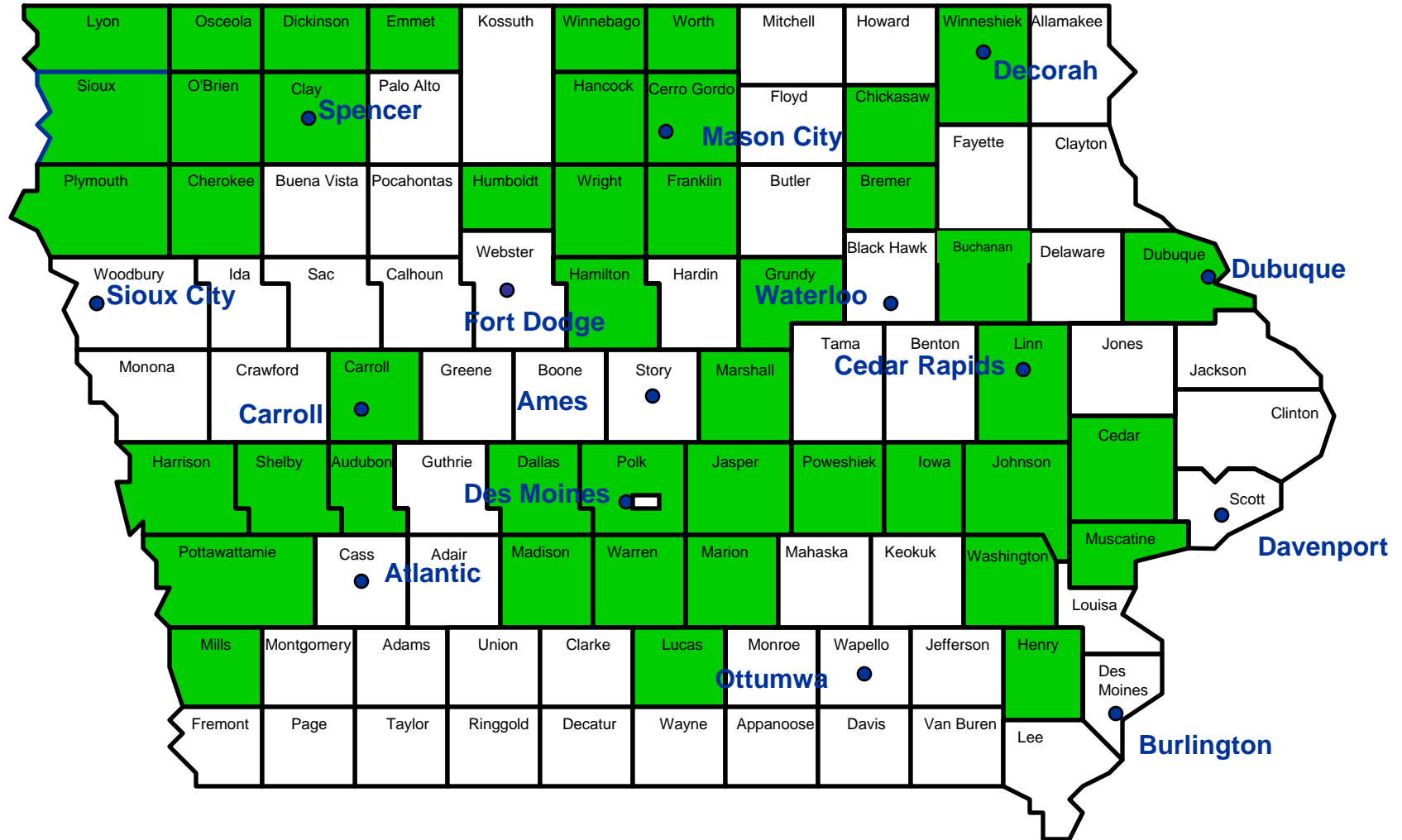
To be eligible for the loan repayment program, award recipients agree to practice in a designated dentist shortage area and devote at least 35 percent of their practice to Medicaid-eligible, elderly, disabled, and other underserved patients over a three-year period. Fifty-five of Iowa's 99 counties are designated as dentist shortage areas for the FIND project. The Loan

Repayment Program is a component of Delta Dental of Iowa's Public Benefit program that invests in projects that improve the oral health of Iowans.

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in oral health projects through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. Delta Dental of Iowa is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental member companies. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation, providing coverage to more than 51 million people in nearly 93,000 employer groups.

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FIND / Delta Dental of Iowa 2009 Loan Repayment Applicable Counties



- Counties **not** applicable
- Counties applicable

Revised
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Source: www.hpsafind.hrsa.gov - Designated Dental HPSA Counties