



Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation

2020

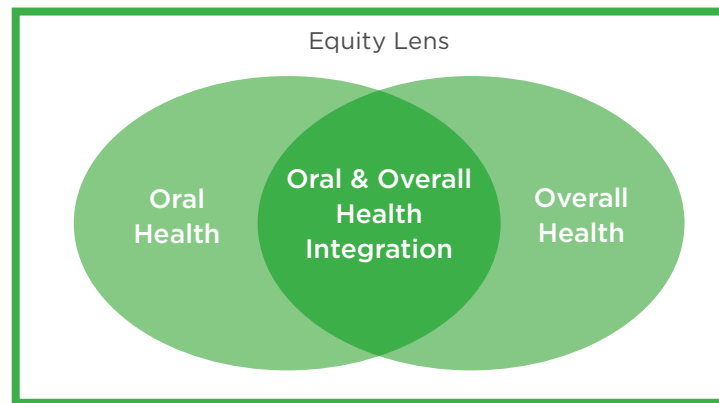
Grantee Evaluation Report | April 2022



MISSION: Strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans.

2025 Strategic Vision:

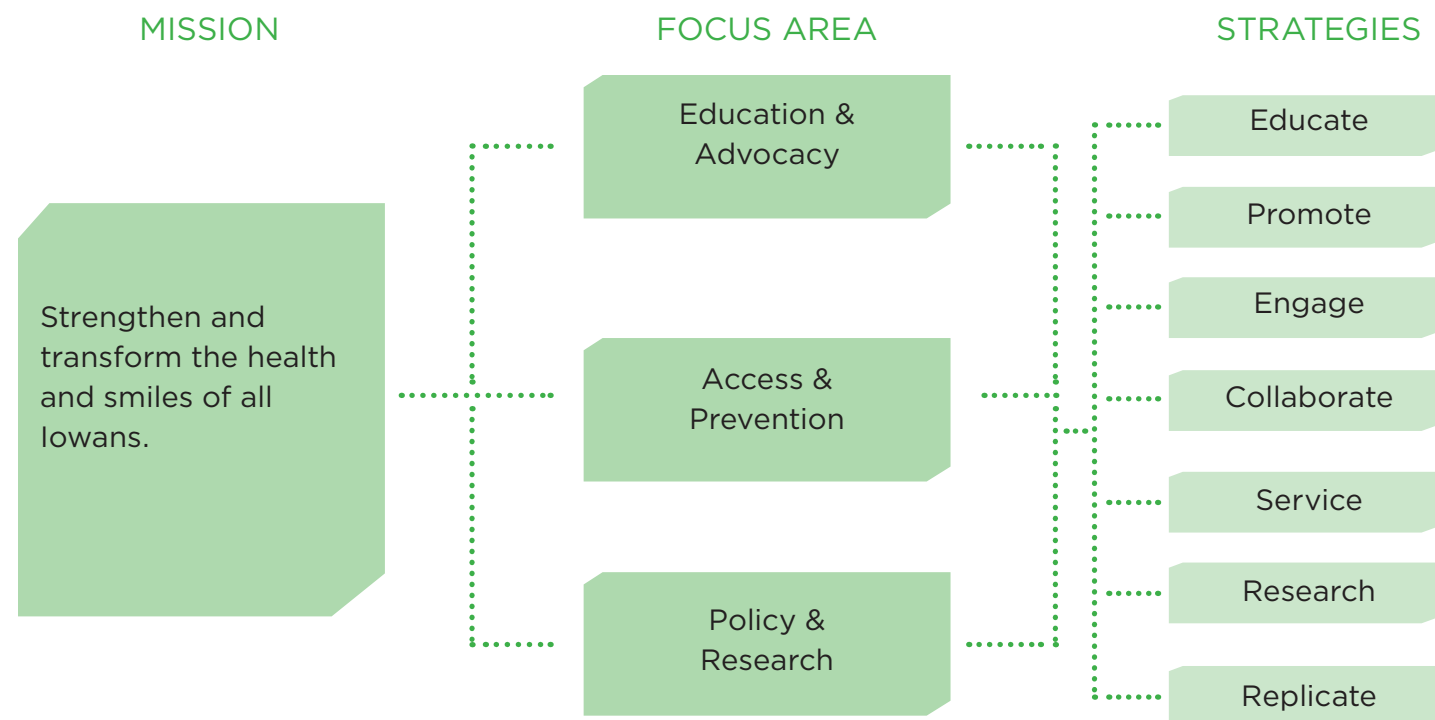
Robust community systems and partnerships empower and engage all Iowans to have optimal dental, vision and overall health.



BEYOND 2020 EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The purpose of the evaluation framework is to highlight impact, challenges, and other learnings shared from grantees during their awarded project period after the grant period has ended. This report is based on the time period of January 1 - December 31, 2020 unless noted otherwise.

The Foundation directs funding through three strategic focus areas: education & advocacy; access & prevention; and policy & research and the following seven strategies: educate, promote, engage, collaborate, service, research, and replicate.



Health Equity Statement

The Foundation envisions a world where health equity is a reality. Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain their full health potential. To achieve this goal, the Foundation will focus on building and supporting systemic solutions to address health inequities to create fair and just opportunities to health for all Iowans.

The Foundation identified four critical areas in which we can advance our focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, which are outlined below:

- ▶ Work to become a strong equity-focused funder.
 - ▶ Work to become a trust-based funder.
 - ▶ Work to become representative and transparent.
 - ▶ Engage in and commit to thoughtful, ongoing equity journey, self-reflection and action.

Some examples how the Foundation has committed to advancing equity in 2020:

 - ▶ Development of a Foundation Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan, shared externally with community partners and continually revised with an annual accountability workplan.
 - ▶ Living a commitment to learning through ongoing training and education at a staff and board level.
 - ▶ Embraced feedback from partners to refine grantmaking processes, simplified application questions, and eliminated reporting during the pandemic.



2.4 Million
lowans
served

**4.2 Million
lowans
Impacted**

Race/Ethnicity Demographics

In 2020, demographic information was collected from grantees in the form of an open-ended question. Over half (56%) of all grantees included Race/ethnicity demographic information in their application; the most frequently identified included Hispanic (41%), Black (29%), and White (28%) lowans. In addition, more than half (52%) of grantees specifically mentioned poverty (low-income, underinsured, uninsured, etc.) as part of their demographics and specific individuals they served.

Note: Data self-reported by grantee and individuals may be counted more than once if impacted by multiple programs.

MEASURING IMPACT: GRANTEE EVALUATION RESULTS BY STRATEGY

STRATEGY: EDUCATE

In 2020, grantees made efforts to increase oral health knowledge and skills for system leaders and/or program participants.

Oral Health Spotlight: Iowa Chronic Care Consortium (ICCC) – Advancing Community Health Worker Oral Health Knowledge and Capacity (\$25,000)

Funds supported development of an oral health training to build oral health competency of Community Health Workers (CHWs) from a range of organizations across Iowa. Project learnings include:

- ▶ Built awareness of oral health’s connection to overall health.
- ▶ 100+ community health workers and front-line workers trained in its first year.
- ▶ Continued partnership with oral health, non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and refugee serving organizations to promote availability of the training.
- ▶ Training program available at no cost to others and all training modules accessible online.



Photo Credit: Iowa Chronic Care Consortium

Wellness Spotlight: Iowa Healthiest State Initiative – Make it OK (\$25,000)

Make It OK is a community campaign aimed to reduce the stigma of mental illness through creating caring conversations. Make It OK is a catalyst to start conversations about mental illness, help Iowans understand helpful language to support individuals with a mental illness, and be a voice of support for those living with a mental illness. During the 2020 grant project year,



Photo Credit: Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
Make It OK

- ▶ 517 Make it OK Ambassadors were trained.
- ▶ 2,852 Iowans were reached by Make it OK presentations.
- ▶ 97 workplaces became registered workplaces, impacting a total of 27,260 employees.

STRATEGY: PROMOTE

This evaluation indicator demonstrates the learnings and effectiveness of oral and overall health outreach and educational campaigns.

Oral Health Spotlight: Healthy Birth Day, Inc. – Saving Babies through Oral Health Education and Outreach (\$21,500 Ignite Planning grant)



Photo Credit: Healthy Birth Day Inc.

The connections between a healthy pregnancy, good oral hygiene, and a healthy baby are all intrinsically linked.

Healthy Birth Day Results

Count the Kicks app
13,000+
downloads and specific website dedicated to oral health during pregnancy.



38,000+ individuals impacted by education and outreach programs during 2020.

Learnings led to a **\$72,000** capacity building grant awarded in 2021 by the Foundation to further develop Count the Kicks app and to grow education and outreach in Iowa and at the national level.



- ▶ Strengthened learning among oral health providers, maternal health providers, and community-based organizations between oral health and stillbirth.
- ▶ Specific outreach and promotion to organizations and groups like Iowa Black Doula Collective who support and care for African American women. Overall, 1 in 167 pregnancies ends in stillbirth, while 1 in 94 pregnancies among African American women end in stillbirth.
- ▶ Education of fetal movement monitoring and good oral health while pregnant was a key message shared within the dental community, including providers, I-Smile™ Coordinators, and public health agencies. One provider stated, “Wow, I didn’t even think about connecting the two, but now it makes perfect sense.”

STRATEGY: ENGAGE

This indicator examines how the collective work supported by the Foundation resulted in, or made progress towards, the adoption of new policies and practices by oral health leaders and/or providers.

These efforts were successful through developing and strengthening collaborations with public and private organizations getting buy-in on programs and services at the county and state level, and developing positions to implement newly developed practices.

Wellness Spotlight: Iowa ACEs 360 – Network Advocacy Outreach Project (\$25,000)

Iowa ACEs 360’s goal is to improve the health and well-being of all by empowering communities, organizations, and people to take informed actions to prevent and mitigate the lifelong effects of childhood adversity. Examples of success include:

- ▶ 10 events and forums held throughout Iowa during 2020 that engaged more than 136 individuals, including elected officials, about the health and well-being of families in their communities.
- ▶ Engagement with leaders and organizations to build a network and voice to advocate on behalf of the health and well-being of Iowa’s children and families.



Iowa ACEs 360 saw 143% increase in individuals who participated in their advocacy list during the 12-month grant period.

STRATEGY: COLLABORATE

Grantee organizations created and strengthened partnerships and collaborations within and outside of the oral health system.

Wellness Spotlight: Can Play – Opportunity on Deck and Courage League Sports – Strong Alone. Unstoppable Together! (\$10,000)



Photo Credit: Can Play

Funds helped support the merger of Opportunity on Deck, a non-profit focused on reducing socioeconomic barriers to healthy activities for youth, and Courage League Sports, a non-profit focused on reducing physical and intellectual barriers to healthy activities for children and adults. The merger resulted in the following successes:

- ▶ Shared physical and technological resources – organization is co-located inside the RecPlex.
- ▶ Increased productivity through specialization.
- ▶ Eliminated duplicated expenses and effort.
- ▶ Opportunity to achieve greater economies of scale and improved health outcomes.

While both organizations showed strength individually, they worked in tandem on their new mission to provide healthy activities through sports to all youth in our community regardless of the barriers they may face.

STRATEGY: SERVICE

While the Foundation cannot fund direct dental services, organizations may receive funds to assist with care coordination, education, and program development or enhancements.

Oral Health Spotlight: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) – I-Smile @ School (\$200,000)

Provided
7,178
students
with oral
screenings

As well as
12,839
sealants during
the 2020-2021
school year

- ▶ Funds allow for program service to 92 of Iowa's 99 counties, with the other 7 counties being served by other programs.
- ▶ Model seen as a 'best practice' in Iowa and at national level; IDPH has provided technical assistance to other states who wish to establish and operate a sustainable sealant program.

Wellness Spotlight: Vision to Learn – Helping Students Recover Lost Learning Time through Vision Care (\$25,000)

Vision to Learn and partners recognized that access, cost, and awareness are barriers for many families to get children the vision services they need. Vision To Learn overcomes these obstacles by bringing a mobile clinic directly to the schools to serve students in underserved communities. For many students, this was the first encounter with vision services.

Many students, particularly young children, were unaware they had a vision problem, despite suffering headaches or having trouble reading or seeing the board at school. Vision To Learn staff provided a training for each of the sites served during the program year.

1,760
students received an eye
exam from the
mobile clinic

1,475
students received
prescription eyeglasses
during the report period

- By providing glasses to all students in need at a school, teachers report
- fewer classroom management issues and improved classroom and school morale.



Photo Credit: Vision to Learn

STRATEGY: RESEARCH

This strategy focuses on publications or tools that contribute to system-wide knowledge.

Oral Health Spotlight: Medicaid Medicare CHIP Services Dental Association (\$25,000)

Medicaid/Medicare/CHIP Services Dental Association (MSDA), in partnership with the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), Iowa Department of Public Health – Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems, Delta Dental of Iowa, MCNA, and PreViser, collaboratively researched and developed a Medicaid Member Self-Assessment Tool. The IME Member Self-Assessment Tool helped:

- ▶ Raise awareness of personal oral health among IME members.
- ▶ Provide IME members with information on their dental benefits and assistance in use of services.
- ▶ Gain insight of member's oral health, social, and access risk factors to inform and improve program administration and services.

This project has laid the foundation to advance oral health policy, programs, and services for all Medicaid eligible adults in Iowa, as well as across the nation.

“

This patient-centered holistic approach to member self-assessment will allow for a more meaningful assessment of patient/member needs among adults in the IME Dental Program.

- Mary Foley, Executive Director of MSDA

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STRATEGY: REPLICATE

The use of funding to identify, utilize, or share lessons learned among partners is an important aspect of grantees' work.

Oral Health Spotlight: Primary Health Care – Ames Dental Clinic (\$250,000)*

Through previous grants to Primary Health Care (PHC) and various dental clinic locations, PHC used results-based strategies identified and utilized to increase impact and effectiveness.

During the first grant reporting year, the clinic construction took place. In addition, PHC worked closely with Mid-Iowa Community Action to transition as the safety net dental provider in Story County. Long-term staff with renovation/build out of a dental clinic as well as experienced vendors, equipment, and materials assisted with this transition. In addition, previous experience with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) certification at other build out locations helped PHC implement the highest standards of infection control and to meet guidelines dictated by the organization. This helped maintain their timeline and in 2021, PHC -Ames Dental Clinic began seeing patients.

*PHC-Ames location began seeing patients in mid-2021 and outside of the grant reporting cycle for Year 1.

RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE NEEDS

COVID-19 Emergency Response

While many of the challenges from 2020 are far from over, the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation remained committed to responding to the needs of those most adversely impacted by the pandemic. Within in the first weeks of the pandemic provided \$860,000 to 146 nonprofit organizations for immediate COVID-19 response relief efforts. As part of these relief efforts, follow-up report requirements were waived.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted disproportionate challenges for refugee communities, communities of color, rural, and underserved populations, and created additional barriers to accessing oral and overall health services. In addition, non-profits sought funds to aid in long-term operational planning needed as a result of the pandemic.

Grantees identified the following most frequent needs for their organization as well as barriers to accessing oral and overall health care:

- ▶ Need for strategic alignment/partnerships with other non-profit organizations.
- ▶ Complex transportation needs or no transportation solutions available for oral and overall health services.
- ▶ Technology and language barriers.
- ▶ Low-income population, particularly single mothers, were more susceptible to adverse health impacts caused by COVID-19, and for single mothers of color the impacts were even more severe.



Nonprofit Organizational and Health Equity Strengthening and Resilience Funding

Twenty-four organizations funded through the Nonprofit Organizational and Health Equity Strengthening and Resilience grants directly supported more than 44,800 Iowans and impacted more than 1,097,700 Iowans during the grant cycle. In addition, funds helped advance nonprofits and health equity work in the following ways:

- ▶ Support for strategic planning and financial planning scenarios to assist with navigating beyond the pandemic.
- ▶ Participation in intensive outreach strategies to vulnerable populations related to the COVID-19 vaccine education, access, and overall health information.
- ▶ Development or creation of culturally and linguistically appropriate oral and overall health services that reduce barriers to maintaining healthy and stable lives.
- ▶ Expansion of mental health services offered in school-based setting, virtual setting, and direct 1-to-1 settings.

COVID-19 Relief Grants impacted more than **1 million** Iowans

\$1.36 Million to 170 nonprofit organizations



Evaluation Vision Statement

Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation fosters a collaborative learning environment that engages our partners in the work of identifying and evaluating sustainable strategies toward building capacity and large scale system change that improves the health and smiles of all Iowans.

The Foundation strives to collaborate with partners to ensure initiatives can continue to grow, endure challenges, and are supported by multiple funding sources.

Foundation Team



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