



Updates from Delta Dental of Iowa

Register for Fall Provider Seminars

There's still time to register for one of our upcoming provider seminars in Iowa City and West Des Moines. Network dentists and their office staff are invited to learn about what's new for 2027 and meet your Delta Dental team. [Register here!](#)

- **Thursday, Nov. 5** | Hilton Garden Inn | 328 S Clinton St, Iowa City, IA
- **Friday, Nov. 6** | Hilton Garden Inn | 205 S 64th St, West Des Moines, IA



First four recipients of Revolving Loan Funds announced

Just months after launching the Delta Dental of Iowa Revolving Loan Fund, \$1.25 million has been distributed to four rural dental practices:

- Dr. Chris Marsho (Grinnell)
- Dr. Kevin Duque (Storm Lake)
- Dr. Kaleb Odden (Madrid)
- Dr. Carter Coppinger (Earlham)

[Read more.](#)

Medicaid & Hawki Updates

Cultural Competency Training

Every patient brings unique experiences, beliefs, languages, and backgrounds that can influence their oral health and interactions with their dental care team. Cultural competency helps providers and staff build trust, improve communication, and deliver care that is respectful of each patient's individual needs.

We encourage all providers and office staff to complete the free training available through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The online training is self-paced and offers practical strategies to help you provide more inclusive, patient-centered care. [Access the cultural competency training.](#)

Patient reminder: Advance directives

Advance directives allow patients to document their health care wishes and identify a Medical Power of Attorney to make decisions on their behalf if they are unable to communicate. Delta Dental of Iowa encourages members to discuss advance directives with their health care providers and provide a copy for their records. As a trusted part of a patient's care team, dental providers can help raise awareness of advance directives and remind patients that they may update these documents at any time. [Find resources about advance directives in Iowa.](#)

Volunteers still needed for Iowa Mission of Mercy

Make a difference by volunteering at the annual Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) Friday, Nov. 13, and Saturday, Nov. 14. They're still in need of dentists, hygienists, and assistants for all shifts. [Register to volunteer.](#)

LGBTQ+ inclusivity best practices training – Oct. 14

One Iowa, in partnership with the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, is providing free LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Training for medical, vision, and dental providers Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 6-7 p.m. This training, available virtually or in person, is designed to improve equitable healthcare access for LGBTQ+ Iowans, with a focus on rural providers and community health centers. [Learn more and sign up.](#)



It's OK to Open Up

Mental Health Updates for Dental Professionals

Make room for real conversations in dentistry

As a dentist, you are trained to be an elite professional. The schedule matters. The patients matter. The standard of care matters. In that kind of environment, it's easy to assume that talking about stress or emotional strain is not welcome here.

This is where stigma takes hold.

Make It OK is focused on reducing stigma by starting conversations and increasing understanding about mental illness. This approach has been absent in many dental workplaces, where silence can be mistaken for strength, and where team members worry about how they will be perceived if they say they are struggling.

But the conversation matters. The more your team normalizes checking in, listening, and speaking openly, the more likely they are to identify concerns early and support one another's wellness.

This month, the invitation is simple. Start one honest conversation. Ask one better question. Listen one minute longer than usual.

Together, we can change the stigma by ensuring our dental teams know it's OK to open up.



For your **smile**. For your **health**.

For your **community**.

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