

# Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation

## 2023 - 2025 Health Equity Strategic Plan



**MISSION:** To strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans.

Our commitment to health equity through Community of Health grant investments is rooted in the belief that all Iowans deserve equitable access to health care. We take a comprehensive approach to addressing health disparities among individuals who are disproportionately impacted in our state.



### MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

Strengthen dental, vision, and mental/emotional health access to care for refugees, immigrants, people with disabilities, BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color), people living in rural communities and LGBTQ+ populations. We aim to support initiatives that promote culturally appropriate oral and overall health education, ensuring that knowledge is accessible and relevant.

**Our 2023 - 2025 health equity plan focuses on collaboration with our partners to focus on marginalized populations in strengthening and transforming the following critical issues:**



#### DENTAL WORKFORCE

Strengthen the capacity of the dental workforce through representation, innovation and education. In addition, support initiatives that educate and raise awareness about dental careers in Iowa.



#### MENTAL/EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Identify and build awareness of stigma while supporting initiatives that address mental/emotional health through systemic solutions, education, and outreach.

A special focus will be to create an open and supportive culture within dental professions, with an emphasis on improving mental health and well-being.



#### VISION HEALTH

Identify and build awareness of critical public health challenges as they relate to vision health.

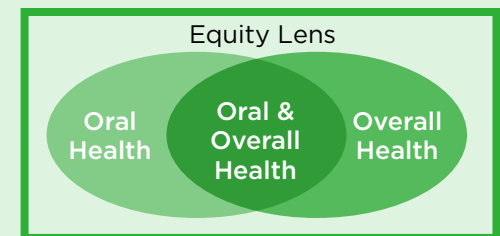
Develop strategies and opportunities that address vision health disparities through systemic solutions, ultimately striving for all Iowans to have equal access to comprehensive vision care.



#### VETERANS' ORAL HEALTH

Identify and eliminate challenges veterans face to access oral health care to ensure healthier outcomes.

### HOW WE DEFINE OUR WORK THROUGH AN EQUITY LENS:



- ▶ **ORAL HEALTH**  
Activities that promote healthy smiles for all Iowans
- ▶ **ORAL AND OVERALL HEALTH INTEGRATION**  
Activities that strengthen connections between dental, physical, and emotional health
- ▶ **OVERALL HEALTH**  
Wellness, vision, and related activities that enable Iowans to live healthy and active lives