



Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation

Strategic Framework, Funding Portfolio and Grant Guidelines

Updated January 2024





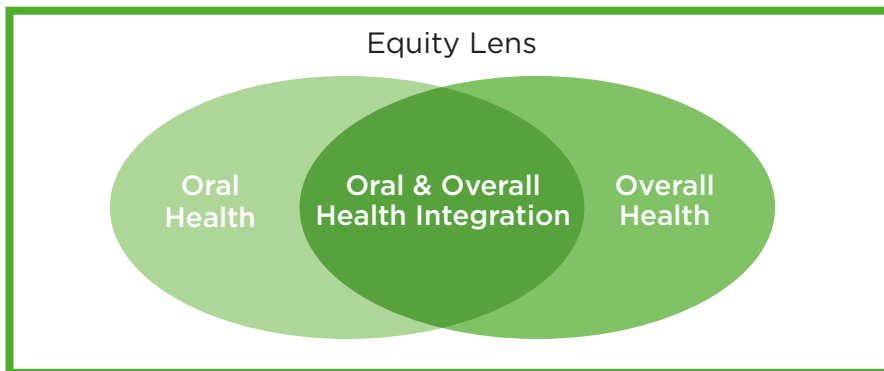
MISSION:

Strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans.

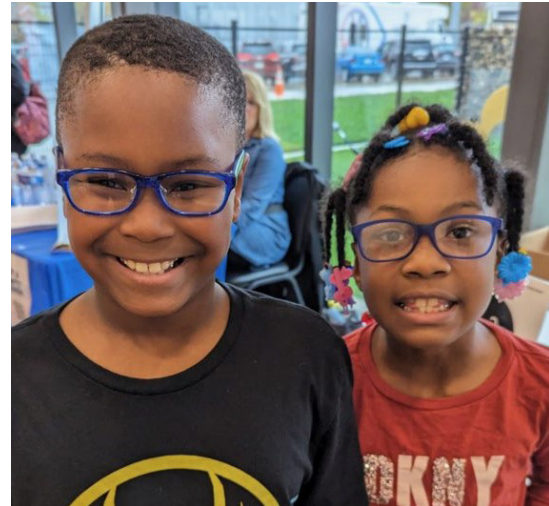
STRATEGIC VISION:

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

DEFINING OUR WORK THROUGH AN EQUITY LENS:



- + **Oral Health**
Activities that promote healthy smiles from all Iowans
- + **Oral and Overall Health**
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



OUR APPROACH

The Foundation adopts a system change approach to its work. The Foundation will pursue this mission through investments in oral health, oral health and overall health integration, and overall health, all through an equity lens. We also understand the best outcomes result through the connection of oral health and overall health. The Foundation will direct funding through three strategic focus areas: education and advocacy, access and prevention, and policy and research.

VALUES

Our values will guide our actions, thinking, and funding:

ALL IOWANS



All Iowans deserve to be healthy. We address barriers within health care systems and strive for statewide reach with an equity lens.

SYSTEMS CHANGE



We focus on strengthening and transforming systems. We pursue our mission to shift conditions to improve health.

PARTNERSHIPS



We recognize that our grantees' and partners' success is our success, and we are committed to engaging with partners in a spirit of transparency and goodwill.

LEADERSHIP



We are a leader in the sector. We aim to be a catalyst for change, a builder and an innovator. We actively engage partners in the philanthropic, public, and private sectors to advance our mission.

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.

THREE STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY	ACCESS AND PREVENTION	POLICY AND RESEARCH
OBJECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + To establish or strengthen a multi-disciplinary group of stakeholders that work together to improve the health and smiles of all lowans + An educated population that is actively engaged in achieving positive oral and overall health outcomes 	OBJECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + All lowans can access quality oral, vision and health care + All lowans have access to tools that facilitate healthy activities/ behaviors 	OBJECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + A stronger connection between oral and overall health within public policy and health care practice + Strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit sector to engage in policy development, analysis, and public education
LEVEL OF INTERVENTION “Connections between systems.”	LEVEL OF INTERVENTION “Discrete parts of the system.”	LEVEL OF INTERVENTION “The system as a whole”
ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Relationship-building and convenings that tighten the intersections between the oral health and overall health communities + Efforts to educate the public about the importance of oral health, vision, and wellness and its relationship to overall health + Consumer education that equips lowans to become engaged and proactive in their health care and wellness + Coalition-building that fosters a community of advocates committed to strengthening the connections between dental and overall health 	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Improvements in the capacity of the health care system to deliver quality care and prevention + Innovations in health care practice that integrate and/or connect dental care delivery with primary care + Efforts that ensure under- or uninsured lowans can access quality oral and vision care + Advances in the health care workforce that improve the capacity of the system to deliver high-quality oral health care and prevention + Efforts that ensure the accessibility of healthy choices in communities 	ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Analysis of the impacts of potential policy changes on coverage and health outcomes + Development of policies that can improve access to coverage, preventive measures and outcomes + Research into the integration of medical and dental health + Research into policy options that would improve health access and quality, while increasing prevention + Research into the advancement of dental innovation
DESIRED OUTCOMES The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Stronger and more diverse relationships between stakeholders + Increased and more robust consumer engagement + A consensus among practitioners, policymakers, and the public about the importance of stronger connections between oral and overall health 	DESIRED OUTCOMES The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Changes in utilization + Changes in the incidence, or rate of acute conditions + Number of activities generated + Changes in the shape and character of the workforce + Number of healthy tools distributed + Identification, utilization and sharing of best practices among partners 	DESIRED OUTCOMES The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Stronger nonprofit capacity for policy analysis and public education + Policies implemented that improve access to coverage and prevention + Robust public discussion and engagement of various policy options + Reports/literature published or tools developed that contribute to system-wide knowledge

The Foundation’s current evaluation framework identifies key objectives including educate, promote, engage and collaborate, service, replicate and research to align with each new program area.

GRANT GUIDELINES

Based on the Foundation Values the following key criteria will be applied in determining funding:



Geography: Focus on the oral and overall health of lowans. At times, an investment in a national learning collaborative or project may have an impact on lowans, so this funding may be considered.



Equity Focus: With a focus on marginalized lowans, describe in detail what conditions exist impacting equity and provide data that supports the identified area of need.



Systems Approach: Impact the oral and/or overall health system and shift the conditions that currently exist at the local and/or statewide level. Projects will identify how lessons learned can impact the oral and/or overall health system.



Leadership: Be a catalyst for change, a builder and an innovator.



Partners (Shared Approach): Engage with other partners and organizations to achieve identified goals. Adopt a shared approach to success.



Success: Measure success and impact while aligning with the Foundation dashboard and goals.



Policy: Identify and address opportunities for policy analysis and public education.

In general, the Foundation does not fund:

- + Direct dental services
- + Grants to individuals
- + Projects that do not have a direct or indirect impact on health and smiles of lowans
- + Political campaigns and lobbying
- + Religious purposes
- + Sponsorships
- + Ongoing or emergency food assistance requests
- + Toothbrush donation requests without strong oral health education component



FUNDING PORTFOLIO

The Foundation will invest in projects that promote health and smiles for all Iowans through our core initiatives, **oral health**, **oral and overall health integration**, and **overall health** all through an equity lens. Funds are invested in programs that align with one the following three strategic areas of focus: **education and advocacy**, **access and prevention**, and **policy and research**.

Funds will be distributed through the grant programs outlined below.

SMILE GRANTS:

\$5,000 or less, to support projects that are primarily educational in nature such as providing educational materials or supplies related to our core initiatives. Applications open in January and are accepted on an ongoing basis until all funds are allocated.

COMMUNITY OF HEALTH GRANTS:

\$5,001 - \$50,000, due March 1 and September 1

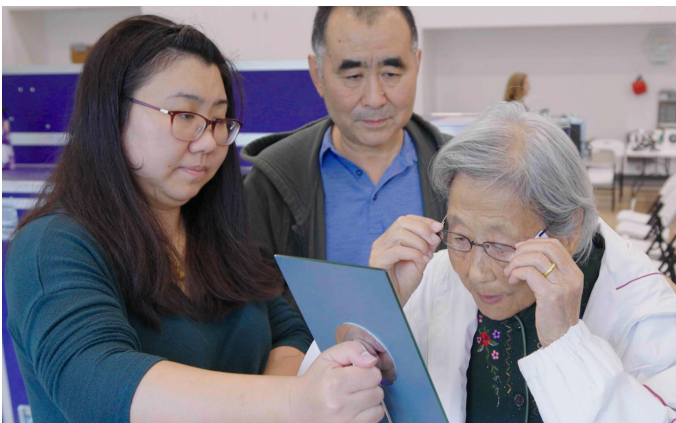
Partnering with others who share our mission and values is necessary to strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans. The Foundation will make investments in projects that advance our core initiatives, align within the three strategic areas of focus.

SYSTEM AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS:

Over \$50,000, letters of interest (LOI) due March 1 and September 1.

Large grants to support infrastructure and major system change efforts related to the Foundation's core initiatives. Following a review by a grant committee, proposals approved to move forward will be invited to present to the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board of Directors.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation team to learn more prior to applying at IA_Foundation@deltadentalia.com.



COMMUNITY OF HEALTH GRANTS

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.

👁️ 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.



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.



VETERANS' ORAL HEALTH

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

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 strengthens and transforms 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



How to Apply for Funding

To apply for funding or for more information on a specific program, visit deltadentalia.com/foundation or contact the Foundation at IA_Foundation@deltadentalia.com.

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