

Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation

Strategic Framework, Funding Portfolio and Grant Guidelines Beyond 2020



Strategic Framework / Vision

2025 Strategic Vision:

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

Our History:

Throughout our history the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has been a leader in promoting oral health across Iowa. Our work has catalyzed efforts to promote improved oral health for the state's most vulnerable people.

- ▶ We partnered with stakeholders from the public, private, and nonprofits sectors as part of our effort to lower barriers to access oral health care for older adults.
- ▶ We worked with partners to innovate new models in pursuit of our vision that every Iowa child be cavity free and every older Iowan have access to care.
- ▶ We supported the efforts of practitioners, schools, researchers, nonprofit organizations, and many other stakeholders as part of our goal of eliminating the incidence of cavities among Iowa youth.

The work we engaged in elevated the profile of oral health within the philanthropic sector, improved health outcomes for thousands of Iowans, and established the Foundation as a leader in oral health philanthropy in Iowa.

Beyond 2020 - How We Approach Our Work:

Our new strategy is intended to build on our past success and reach into related areas that correspond to Delta Dental's growth as a company. In an era where health care practices are increasingly integrated and in which patients seek holistic health care solutions, the Foundation will extend its grant making to areas of wellness and vision and in ways that relate to oral health, which will, as always, remain at the center of what we do.



Two Funds:

The Foundation will invest in activities that strengthen and transform the health and smiles of all Iowans.

The majority of our funding will be concentrated in the **Oral Health Fund**, which will continue to support pioneering approaches to advance oral health care and the integration of oral health with overall health.

The Foundation's **Wellness Community Fund** promotes and invests in innovative opportunities to improve wellness and vision through grassroots community health initiatives.

Both funds provide support to programs that align with the Foundation's strategic areas of focus: education and advocacy, access and prevention, and policy and research.

Guiding Principles

The health and vitality of our nonprofit partners is crucial to our success. We are interested in **building the capacity of the sector**, enhancing relationships between organizations, and supporting general operations.



As a systems funder, we understand that the changes we seek may require time.



Because our reach is statewide, we recognize that we serve and support a **broad spectrum of stakeholders** that show up in their communities in diverse ways.



Given the range of oral and overall health issues that Iowans face, we understand that **working in partnership with others is how we will achieve change**. We believe the achievement of real change within and across systems requires the coordinated action of multiple stakeholders.



The grant is one of the many tools we utilize in our work – we also aim to support collaboration within and across sectors, to curate opportunities for transformation, and deploy our relationship capital in support of our work. **As a leader in the field, it is our responsibility to step up.**



As a catalytic funder, **we seek to spark change**. In doing so we are open to building and piloting new ideas.



We work on behalf of all Iowans, with a particular focus on those who fall between the cracks of the various systems that provide them care. **We know that the oral and overall health of Iowans is only possible if it is a goal that everyone can achieve.**



Our approach

The Foundation adopts a system change approach to its work. The Foundation will pursue this mission over the next five years 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



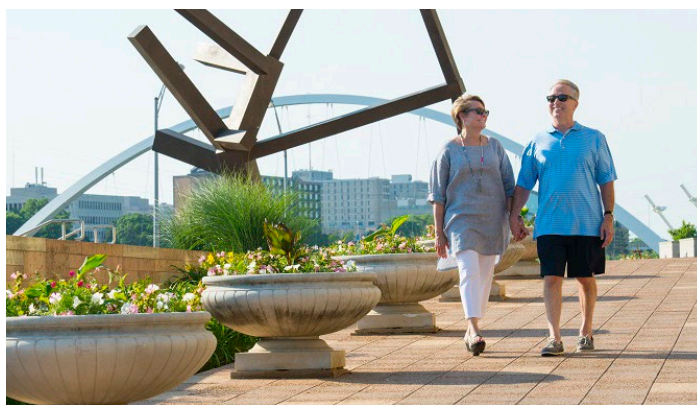
We are a leader in the sector. We aim to be a catalyst for change, a builder and an innovator. We actively engage partners in the philanthropic, public, and private sectors to advance our mission.

How we define our work:

Oral health – Projects that promote healthy smiles for all Iowans.

Oral and overall health integration – Projects 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.



Education and Advocacy	Access and Prevention	Policy and Research
<p>Objectives</p> <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 Iowans ▶ An educated population that is actively engaged in achieving positive oral and overall health outcomes 	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All Iowans can access quality oral, vision and health care ▶ All Iowans have access to tools that facilitate healthy activities/behaviors 	<p>Objectives</p> <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
<p>Level of Intervention</p> <p>“Connections between systems.”</p>	<p>Level of Intervention</p> <p>“Discrete parts of the system.”</p>	<p>Level of Intervention</p> <p>“The system as a whole”</p>
<p>Activities supported</p> <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 Iowans 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 	<p>Activities supported</p> <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 Iowans 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 	<p>Activities supported</p> <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
<p>Desired outcomes</p> <p>The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as:</p> <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 	<p>Desired outcomes</p> <p>The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as:</p> <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 	<p>Desired outcomes</p> <p>The Foundation evaluates this program area relative to measurements such as:</p> <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
<p><i>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.</i></p>		

Funding Portfolio

Oral Health Fund

Through this fund, the Foundation will invest in projects that promote health and smiles for all Iowans, through our two core initiatives, Oral Health and Oral and Overall Health Integration. Funds will be distributed through the grant programs outlined below.

Smile Grants: \$5,000 or less, these grants are designed to support one time, short-term projects that are primarily educational in nature such as providing educational kits and oral health supplies. Applications are open in January and accepted on an ongoing basis, but will be closed once all funds are allocated.

Ignite Planning Grants: \$5,001 - \$25,000 due May 1 and September 1. These projects are intended to infuse a spark or initiate learnings to strengthen and transform smiles.

System and Capacity Building Grants:

Grants over \$25,000 (large grants and major system change initiatives/innovation in oral health grants). Letters of interest for this grant program are due February 1 and June 1. Following review by a grant committee, proposals will be invited for full application. All proposals over \$50,000 or more should contact the Foundation staff. Any grant approved to move forward will be presented to the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board of Directors.

- Focused on impact and system building
- Oral health innovation
- Integration of oral and overall health

Wellness Community Fund

This \$1M initiative (to be distributed over two years) is launching in celebration of Delta Dental of Iowa's 50th anniversary and of the new mission and strategic direction of the Foundation. Funds are directed to programs that innovate in one of the three major initiatives:

Overall Health: This fund fosters innovation to solve key health issues through support of system change efforts focused in wellness, vision care and related activities.

Innovation Grants: Up to \$25,000 due on May 1 and September 1. These are reactive projects intended to spark a larger initiative, focus on key health issues that address strengthening and/or transforming wellness, vision and related health activities.

Community Change Grants: Funds over \$25,000 will be directed to community organizations focused on overall health.

- Proactive grants focused on fostering innovation to solve key health issues identified by the community and in alignment with Foundation priorities. Projects will be identified that support system change efforts in collaboration with existing community stakeholders.
- The intent of Community Change grants are for the Foundation to elevate the work of key community partners to align and engage in a way that provides greater scale and impact.



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 Iowans. At times, an investment in a national learning collaborative or project may have an impact on Iowans, so this funding may be considered.



Equity Focus: With a focus on underserved Iowans and 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 services
- ▶ Grants to individuals
- ▶ Projects that do not have a direct or indirect impact on health and smiles of Iowans
- ▶ Political campaigns and lobbying
- ▶ Religious purposes
- ▶ Sponsorships



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 supported by multiple funding sources.

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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