



Washington Dental Service Foundation

Community Advocates for Oral Health

Grant Making Focus

Washington Dental Service Foundation, a non-profit funded by Washington Dental Service, the leading dental benefits company in Washington State, is dedicated to significant, long-lasting improvements in the oral health and overall health of Washington's young children and seniors. The Foundation's mission is to improve overall health for all by eliminating oral disease. Together with our partners, we do this through innovative programs and policies that produce permanent changes in the many environments which affect health.

The Foundation is focusing on young children and seniors because we believe that is where our investments will make the most difference in preventing oral disease. We also work to elevate the issue of oral health and bring awareness to the severity of the consequences of oral disease so that decision makers and the public value oral health and demand policy solutions to address this health issue.

We want children to acquire the behaviors that will make them cavity free and seniors to be free of oral disease that is linked to other serious disease such as diabetes, pneumonia, heart disease and stroke. Addressing the oral health of pregnant women can improve their oral health as well as their child's. When mothers have tooth decay, their babies are at increased risk for tooth decay as well. Preventing dental disease among young children enables them to learn, develop and thrive and has been shown to improve their oral health for their lifetimes, preventing unnecessary pain and healthcare costs. Many seniors have a chronic health condition, like diabetes, which can be exacerbated by oral disease and lead to a decline in overall health and vitality. Seniors are also more likely to suffer from dry mouth, a frequent side effect of many common medications, which can quickly cause oral health to deteriorate.

Grants are made to eligible organizations for projects that:

- Ensure early intervention and improve the oral health of young children (birth through age 5) and pregnant women.
- Improve the oral health of seniors, and
- Build public awareness of this health issue and increase support for policy change.

Proposed projects must put forth sustainable solutions and benefit large numbers of people.

WDS Foundation will consider requests for needed funding to initiate, expand, or replicate program models that can be sustained after initial funding either because the solution requires no additional costs or the service model includes sufficient dependable revenue to fund ongoing operations.

The Foundation does not typically offer grants to organizations that have sufficient funding for the project being proposed and can accomplish the goals without outside funding. Organizations should be aware that the Foundation encourages applicants to seek funding from multiple sources. In some cases, depending on the circumstances, a loan may be offered rather than a grant.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding consideration, an organization must be a:

- ✓ Public charity with tax-exempt status under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or
- ✓ Public or governmental entity such as a school or health district, or
- ✓ Tribal organization with 7871 tax-exempt status, or
- ✓ Tax-exempt dental association.

Organizations applying for a grant must have a physical presence in the state of Washington. The project for which funds are requested must predominantly benefit people living in Washington.

Grants are **not** made to:

- Political organizations or political campaigns
- Projects not related to oral health
- Ongoing programs, ongoing general operating expenses or existing deficits
- Projects that are completed or the equipment has already been purchased
- Projects related to dental professional schools with the main goal of educating the dental workforce
- Research projects
- Fundraising events
- Individuals

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must contact the Foundation prior to submitting a grant application. The Foundation provides technical assistance to applicants to ensure that organizations submit the best possible applications that are competitive for funding. Foundation staff is available to answer questions that may come up as you complete your application. All prospective applicants should contact Heather Knaplund at (206) 528-2337 or (800) 572-7835 extension 2337 or hknaplund@deltadentalwa.com.

Grant applications are due on March 15th and September 15th. Funding decisions will be announced in late June and late December.