

**For Immediate Release**

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## **\$200,000 in Grants Available to Improve Colorado's Oral Health**

*Delta Dental of Colorado offers grants up to \$50,000 each to Colorado-based organizations and individuals with innovative approaches to improve oral health*

DENVER – Delta Dental of Colorado is tapping into Colorado's long, proud tradition of entrepreneurship and invention by offering grants to support new ideas and approaches to improving the state's oral health.

Grant proposals of \$5,000 to \$50,000 are being accepted now through Sept. 1 for any Colorado-based organization or individual with an innovative approach to improve oral health in the state. The [Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Innovation Grants project](#), funded by the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation in partnership with Delta Dental of Colorado, will make available a total of \$200,000 in grant awards.

“This is an exciting opportunity for anyone with the next big idea for advancing the oral health of our state, whether you are a dentist, entrepreneur, in public health or education, or perhaps a student,” said Barbara Springer, executive director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. “As the state's leading funder of oral health projects, Delta Dental is investing in our health with an eye toward cutting-edge technologies and approaches.”

To be considered grant proposals must:

- **Originate in Colorado** – Out-of-state applications will not be accepted.
- **Demonstrate innovation** – Delta Dental seeks to support the newest, untested, cutting edge ideas and approaches to improve oral health in Colorado.
- **Be impactful** – Funded ideas will advance the field of oral health in a meaningful way in Colorado.

Proposals can address any one of the many oral health challenges facing the state. These can include innovations that significantly improve the quality of care; new oral health related technologies; oral health literacy; dental practice efficiency; integrating oral health and overall health; and increasing focus to prevention and/or early intervention.

Applications can be found at <http://deltadentalcofoundation.org/initiatives-grants/grantapp/> and are due Sept. 1, 2016. Delta Dental will host a webinar on July 21 to offer details on the application process and answer questions: <http://deltadentalcofoundation.org/initiatives-grants/grantapp/>. For more information, email [lkonen@ddpco.com](mailto:lkonen@ddpco.com).

**About Delta Dental of Colorado**

Established in 1958, Delta Dental of Colorado is the largest, most experienced dental benefits provider in the state. It is a nonprofit organization that serves over 1.2 million Coloradans with high-quality, cost-effective, evidence-based dental plans. Delta Dental of Colorado's mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. Delta Dental of Colorado is a member of the national Delta Dental Plans Association (DDPA). For more than 50 years, the DDPA has worked to improve oral health nationally. Delta Dental member companies serve more than 62 million people nationwide. For more information, visit our website at [DeltaDentalCO.com](http://DeltaDentalCO.com).

**About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation**

About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation has been solely funded by Delta Dental of Colorado. Its initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority. A core belief is that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, efforts to improve oral health will result in a healthier Colorado overall. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).

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