



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR COLORADO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS  
INTERESTED IN IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH**

*Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation will fund a range of projects statewide.*

**DENVER – July 17, 2018** – Today, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) released a request for applications (RFA) from Colorado nonprofit organizations interested in implementing projects or seeking general operating support to advance oral health equity in their communities.

This funding opportunity is open to organizations statewide. The goal is to strengthen opportunities for people that have historically been overlooked. There are multiple social determinants – such as race and ethnicity, income, geography and age – that impact Coloradans’ oral health. Fifty-seven of Colorado’s 64 counties are designated a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area by the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, more than half of Coloradans over the age of 65 lack dental insurance. Sixty-eight percent of Colorado children ages 0-18 reporting poor oral health live in families with incomes less than 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, per the 2017 Colorado Health Institute Health Access Survey.

The DDCOF RFA is available online at [deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://deltadentalcofoundation.org). **Applications are due by Friday, August 31, 2018 at midnight MST.** Hard copy applications can be requested by calling (303) 889-8633 or emailing [grants@ddpco.com](mailto:grants@ddpco.com). Through this opportunity, DDCOF will fund:

- Community-based interventions
- Clinical interventions and equipment
- Education and awareness programs
- Programs and activities that increase access to affordable, accessible and comprehensive oral health.
- Activities that aim to prevent tooth decay in young children, from birth through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and pregnant women.
- Innovative grant applications designed to meet community need through proven or unproven efforts.
- Grant applications for traditional methods proven to improve oral health.

DDCOF’s mission is to elevate the well-being of all Coloradans by advancing oral health equity. The foundation seeks to work with communities to increase access to oral health services and education for



Coloradans of all ages. This funding opportunity prioritizes solutions addressing access to care and the prevention of tooth decay. Applications between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per year will be considered. Single-year or multi-year (up to three years) projects are eligible.

“We welcome learning about oral health solutions from partners across Colorado,” said Allison Cusick, executive director of Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. “Oral health is a window into individual and community well-being. Far too many Coloradans are unable to access the oral health services they need. We hope that this funding opportunity connects the foundation to innovative activities that have the greatest potential to improve oral and overall health in our state.”

DDCOF is a state and national leader in funding projects that address oral health disparities in populations that have historically been overlooked:

- Since 2014, the foundation has invested \$6.8 million in its [Colorado Medical-Dental Integration \(CO MDI\) Project](#), which has integrated dental hygienists into the medical care teams at 26 medical practices to reach Coloradans who are unable to access care due to insurance status, geographic barriers or transportation challenges.
- DDCOF has provided funding to the [Frontier Center 4 Health](#) at the University of Colorado School of Medicine since 2009 to train more than 10,000 medical, dental and pharmacy students on the connection between oral health and physical health.
- Since 2007, DDCOF has collaborated with other foundations to fund [Cavity Free at Three, a program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment](#) that trains health care professionals to provide preventive oral health services for young children and pregnant women to expand access to care and reduce oral health disparities.

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**About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation:**

For more than 20 years, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) has been working to make good dental health a community priority. As a 501(c)(3) organization funded by the nonprofit Delta Dental of Colorado, we believe our efforts will improve the health of all Coloradans. We partner with communities and provide grant funding specific to three main oral health focus areas: access to care, prevention and connections to overall health. Together with our partners, we implement innovative programs and projects intended to reach communities that have been historically overlooked. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).