



UPK Screening and Referral Grant Guidelines

Delta Dental of Colorado is seeking applications from Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) administering Universal Pre-K (UPK) for providers to engage in a two-year partnership with Assuring Better Child Health & Development (ABCD) and Healthy Child Care Colorado (HCCC) to create a proof of concept for how Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) can support child care providers in developing and implementing the UPK quality standards related to the following sections of HB22-1295:

- a. (k) REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFERING VOLUNTARY VISION, HEARING, DENTAL, AND HEALTH SCREENINGS, AND, UPON PARENT REQUEST, REFERRALS TO APPROPRIATE HEALTH PROVIDERS FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED BY A PRESCHOOL PROVIDER; AND
- b. (l) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS, WHICH MUST, AT A MINIMUM, INCLUDE THE USE OF VALID AND RELIABLE SCREENING TOOLS THAT ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY, CULTURALLY, AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE.
- c. Family and community engagement ((i.) STANDARDS FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESCHOOL PROVIDER ENGAGES WITH PARENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS IN A FORMAL AND MEANINGFUL WAY, INCLUDING SEEKING INPUT FOR POLICY AND PROGRAMMING DECISIONS

Total LCO amount of funding available for this 2-year project is estimated at \$590,000. Please note this is a 21-month contract, with a contract term ending 1/14/2026. Please create your budget accordingly. We anticipate awarding 3-4 LCOs ("cohort") based on criteria outlined below. Funding considerations will be made to include both rural and metro grantees into the cohort. We are looking for LCOs who can "champion" the inclusion of oral health into UPK and child care settings through mobilizing CCHCs for dental screenings and integrating oral health prevention and early childhood development education into classrooms.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following:

- Ability to demonstrate existing relationships with UPK classrooms in a mixed-delivery system, including home-based, center-based, and school-based programs.
- Ability to demonstrate relationships with Child Care Health Consultants and express a strong desire to convene and organize CCHCs for the project.
- Ability to demonstrate existing relationships with community partners in the oral health and early childhood development services and supports arena.
- The funding for this cohort requires applicants to embrace a holistic approach to impacting positive oral health outcomes through dental screenings and referrals, paired with ongoing education in the classroom around oral health via Cavity Free Kids curriculum. Training and ongoing technical assistance for this curriculum is free to LCO staff and/or providers and is supported by Healthy Child Care Colorado.
- The funding for this cohort additionally requires applicants to embrace a holistic approach to impacting the early identification of developmental delay through developmental screening and referral and supporting families in accessing developmental services and supports, as referenced in HB22-1295.
- LCOs must demonstrate capacity to expand into the space of screening and referral, in accordance with the UPK Quality Standards. The role of LCO staff is flexible within a funded grant to achieve the desired goals, and the LCO applicant has the ability to think through what a structure might look like for staffing this type of model. Staffing may look different at different organizations – from a quality navigator, to a professional development manager, to an “enhanced” coach, etc. The role of the LCO staff is more administrative than a coaching, and applicants should contemplate a position that could support outreach, administration, recruitment of programs to participate, organization of resource lists, and meeting with programs and consultants about the inclusion of oral health in the definition of quality within child care settings. Required budget consideration should be made for staffing (either FTE or subcontractors), as well as stipends for providers and CCHCs. Please see [Budget Worksheet](#) for further information.

As an expectation of the partnership, please note the following:

- Grantee will work with ABCD and HCCC (backbone entities) to adhere to a co-created implementation model;
- Grantee will contribute to evaluation planning and reporting requirements, as set forth by the backbone entities;
- Grantee will work with HCCC to train classroom teachers in Cavity Free Kids (CFK) curriculum with the goal of providing elements of CFK in the classroom for the duration of the contract period to ensure continued oral health prevention of tooth decay education for children and families served in screened classrooms;
- LCO key staff will attend CFK training, enabling staff to grow knowledge and professional efficacy in oral health prevention;
- LCO key staff will work with ABCD on training, enabling staff to grow knowledge on the quality standards related to developmental screening and referral;
- LCO key staff will attend focus groups and/or regular meetings with cohort and backbone entities;
- Grantee will sign a participation agreement as part of grant contract process.

Next Steps and Key Dates

- Thoroughly review grant criteria and guidelines.
- The application portal will go live on **January 2, 2024**. Applicants can begin their requests on that date.
- Deadline for grant submission is **February 15, 2024**; late or incomplete grant applications will not be considered.
- FAQs and grant portal support will be available.

