



# 2024 Open Funding Opportunity Grant Guidelines

Oral health impacts Coloradans of all ages and, at a broader level, affects the well-being of our communities.

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's (DDCOF) mission is to elevate the well-being of all Coloradans by advancing oral health equity. For more than 20 years, the foundation has partnered with community-based organizations to provide innovative and equitable oral health care through grants, engaging with groups across the state, and supporting policy and systems change. We foster an ongoing dialogue to identify and test oral health solutions. We believe partners will draw our attention to unique approaches to move toward oral health equity.

We are stronger together. Join us on our journey to improve oral health equity.

## What the Data Shows us

It's well documented that health disparities are closely linked to race and ethnicity, income, geography, and age. Oral health outcomes are no different. Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation has taken a multifaceted approach to achieving oral health equity by investing in the areas that research and data tell us are most pressing. As a result, the foundation is funding programs that do the following:

(Click on each area to see more details and data).

<b>Prevention</b>	<p>Prevent tooth decay among pregnant people and the youngest Coloradans.</p> <p>We have an additional special opportunity for organizations administering Universal Pre-K to apply for capacity building grants around oral health screenings. <a href="#">See the UPK Screening and Referral Grant Guidelines.</a></p>
<b>Access to Care</b>	<p>Invest in Colorado communities most impacted by oral health disparities.</p> <p><b>San Luis Valley:</b> Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. <b>East Denver metro:</b> Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, Swansea, Elyria, Globeville, and/or Northwest Aurora (generally: North Aurora, Hoffman Heights/Jewell Heights, and Fitzsimmons neighborhoods).</p>

## How we Define Oral Health Equity

**Health equity** is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain their full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## 2024 Open Funding Opportunity

This grant cycle is competitive, and we expect to receive a significant number of high-quality proposals. While we are committed to funding projects that align with our objectives, it is important to note that not all proposals may receive funding due to the limited number of awards available.

In this grant cycle, we anticipate awarding **up to six grants** in each of the two open initiative areas. Applicants should be aware of the competitiveness of this cycle and approach their proposals with a focus on clarity, innovation, and the potential for lasting positive change. It is recommended that applicants thoroughly review the grant guidelines and submit proposals that clearly articulate their project's objectives, methods, and expected outcomes.

Applications from Colorado-based nonprofit organizations and institutions whose proposals strongly align to the foundation's funding priorities, occur in-state, and benefit Coloradans will be considered.

## What we will Fund

Grant requests will be accepted for either of the focus areas outlined below. Applicants will have the opportunity to select which focus area aligns with their request as part of the application process. **Eligible uses of funds may include, but are not limited to, programs that:**

### Prevention of Tooth Decay in Prenatal and Early Childhood

- Integrate and/or introduce oral health services into clinical or community settings, such as preschools, childcare centers, home visitation programs, clinics, health centers, or other.
- Coordination and/or provision of patient-centered approaches to addressing caries that are minimally invasive, safe, effective, and timely, such as use of silver diamine fluoride, interim therapeutic restoration, or teledentistry services for screenings and education.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of preventive oral health practices among parents/caregivers to increase adoption of positive oral health promotion behaviors, including use of needed dental services.
- Directly tie oral health care services to broader work with young children and/or pregnant people, resulting in securing a dental home for the patient.
- Enhance integration of oral health care into prenatal safety-net services.
- Implement programs that are scalable or replicable in advancing preventive oral health care among the targeted age group.
- Provide patient assistance funds to target population as part of a broader oral health program of reducing cost as a barrier to accessing prevention services.

### Access to Care in Place-based Communities (must align to defined regions)

- Authentically engage and center the most impacted populations in identifying solutions to address oral health disparities.
- Cultivate collaboration among community dental health and other safety-net providers, advocates, leaders, and community organizations and institutions to develop shared oral health priorities and actions.
- Support culturally relevant strategies to reduce barriers to and improve oral health across the lifespan.
- Reduce barriers to care including transportation, education, benefits, and enrollment.
- Improve the recruitment and retention of oral health staff who serve overlooked populations.
- Initiate or scale evidence-based and promising programs that improve oral health outcomes.
- Provide patient assistance funds as part of a broader oral health program of reducing cost as a barrier to accessing care.
- Carry out prevention activities described in the Prevention area of funding below.



## Grant Guidelines and Application

### Eligible organizations include:

- Those classified as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4).
- Tax-supported Colorado organizations, including state or local governments or schools.
- New or emerging organizations without 501(c)(3) status that apply through a tax-exempt organization acting as a fiscal sponsor; these organizations must provide written documentation of the relationship with the fiscal sponsor.

### The grant application will include the following:

- Key oral health goals and priorities for the area of funding of your grant request.
- The expected impact of the programs for which you are requesting funding.
- Key milestones and activities the organization is undertaking to achieve the oral health goals and priorities.
- How the organization undertakes evaluation and uses data to inform the development, implementation, and improvement of its programs.
- Demographics of the participants and community participating and being served under this request.
- If applicable to the organization, key equity goals and priorities of the organization (not limited to oral health).
- Financial information, including budgets, profit and loss statements, balance sheets, and annual audits (if applicable).

## Additional Information About the Grant Opportunity

- Applicants may request a one-year grant of up to \$75,000.
- Requests may be no more than 10 percent of the organization's total fiscal year budget.
- Grantees awarded funding will be asked to participate in DDCOF evaluation activities including grant reporting, focus group participation, or other methodologies to capture feedback and learnings.
- Final grant award amounts will be informed by multiple factors, including the request amount relative to the oral health activities being proposed, the alignment of the proposed program to the foundation's priorities, and the amount of funding available relative to the number of grants approved.
- For applicants, please contact a program officer if you are seeking to request funding for more than one focus area under this grant opportunity.
- In some rare cases, it may be appropriate for current grantees of DDCOF to apply for funding under a different initiative from which they are already receiving funding. If you are a current grantee and would like to consider submitting an application for a new program under a different initiative area, you must contact your Program Officer before applying.
- Grants that are approved will have a contract start date of April 15, 2024. Grant periods are twelve months.
- We strongly encourage all applicants to contact a senior program officer before applying.





## What We Will Not Fund Under the Grant Opportunity

- Grants to individuals
- Operating deficits or retirement of debt
- Building endowments or reserve funds
- Capital campaigns, building construction, renovations, or other capital expenditures\*
- Significant medical or dental equipment costs (\$25,000 or greater)\*
- Membership or annual fund campaigns
- Grants for medical, scientific, or academic research
- Lobbying activities, including supporting political candidates or voter registration drives
- Legal services
- Scholarships
- For-profit entities
- Fundraising campaigns or events
- Water filling stations
- Vehicles such as vans or buses
- Projects that exclusively serve religious purposes or include proselytization

\*If you seek funding for capital costs and expenditure, please explore our [oral health capital loan fund.](#)

## Reporting Requirements

Grantees awarded funding through this competitive cycle are expected to provide regular updates on the progress of their projects. To ensure effective communication and accountability, we have established two reporting milestones: mid-year and end-of-year reports.

The reporting requirements are integral to our commitment to transparency, impact assessment, and continuous improvement. Timely and accurate reporting enables us to understand the progress of funded projects, share success stories, and address any challenges faced by grantees. Throughout the grant period, our team will be available to provide assistance and guidance on the reporting process. We value open communication and encourage grantees to reach out with any questions or concerns related to reporting requirements.

## 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.
- Contact a staff member to discuss your grant idea and to determine alignment with the foundation's funding priorities.
- FAQs and grant portal support will be available.

## Speak to a Grantmaking Team Member

No one knows your community like you do. We welcome the opportunity to have a conversation about how your organization's work fits within our strategic focus areas.

Please email the following staff members for more information prior to submitting your request, and they will contact you to discuss your proposal:

- Access to Care in Place-based Communities, Carla Castillo, [ccastillo@ddpco.com](mailto:ccastillo@ddpco.com)
- Prevention/Early Childhood, Mara Holiday, [mholiday@ddpco.com](mailto:mholiday@ddpco.com)
- For questions about the application portal, please contact [grants@ddpco.com](mailto:grants@ddpco.com)

If you would like to receive emails about future funding opportunities, please email [grants@ddpco.com](mailto:grants@ddpco.com)