

2026 Funding Opportunity Frequently Asked Questions

Will you offer an informational webinar?

Yes. The recorded webinar link is [here](#).

What is the grant application deadline?

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on September 8, 2026.
Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Is the grant criteria on the website?

Yes, the detailed information is in the [grant guidelines](#), listed on the website.

Is this the only funding opportunity that will be available this year?

We currently anticipate that this will be the only open, competitive funding opportunity available in 2026. However, we do consider proposals related to policy and advocacy efforts on a rolling basis. If your organization is engaged in policy work that aligns with our mission to advance oral health equity, we encourage you to reach out to our team to explore potential funding opportunities outside of this RFP cycle.

How much funding can we request?

We will consider requests up to \$75,000. Every proposal is different and specific to the proposed activities and the organization's needs. We will weigh your proposed work, need, and expenses when determining an award amount.

Can we run our ideas past you before developing our application or if we have any additional questions?

Yes! Before applying, all prospective applicants must connect with a senior program officer to ensure alignment with our funding priorities. This conversation will help determine whether your proposed work fits within the scope of this opportunity. To schedule a time to speak with a member of our grantmaking team, please contact us by email. For additional details, please also review our grant guidelines.

Access:

Carla Castillo
Senior Program Officer
ccastillo@ddpco.com
[Schedule a meeting](#)

Prevention:

Mara Holiday
Senior Program Officer
mholiday@ddpco.com
[Schedule a meeting](#)

Contact us!

You can reach out to a specific team member:

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(Se habla español)
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Can we apply for a general operating grant?

In general, we are not presently funding general operating support. As a funder with specific oral health goals, we are relying on our partnerships with grantees to learn what is working well and the challenges that impact oral health outcomes. Your data, work, and approaches will help inform our future grantmaking and priorities.

Our funding, however, is flexible, as we are not expecting you to track how you spend it line by line (exceptions exist for large ticket items such as dental chairs or subcontract providers). Therefore, if awarded a grant, you will have the flexibility to spend it on the areas of greatest need in the program/department to carry out the work you've proposed.

Can I apply if I'm a previous grantee?

Yes, you can apply.

Can I apply if we are a current grantee?

Yes, you can apply as a current grantee if your grant contract is expiring in 2026. The application for this RFP will contain a few questions that ask you to report progress on your current grant, which we will use to assess future funding.

Can organizations submit more than one application for different initiatives/focus areas?

Generally, no, we will not consider multiple requests for different priority focus areas from grantees. We strongly encourage you to speak to a grantmaking staff member to determine alignment with one of our focus areas.

How can I ask for an application?

Our grants management system, Benevity, is a link-based platform—no login is required. You can start your application, save your progress, and return to it anytime by using the same link (our tip is to “favorite” this link so that you can return to it easily). Click [here](#) to apply. For more information about our grants management platform and interface, please reference our [webinar](#).

What are DDCOF's approach to and requirements for evaluation?

At DDCOF, we are deeply committed to learning and accountability. Evaluation is a key part of how we understand the effectiveness of our work and the work of our partners. As part of our new strategic plan, we will use clearly defined indicators of progress—outlined in the RFP—to assess how funded projects contribute to improved oral health outcomes in Colorado.

These indicators are aligned with our two strategic focus areas: Access and Prevention. They help us track progress toward long-term goals such as reducing disparities in oral health care access and increasing the use of preventive oral health services.

We require:

- annual interim reports for multi-year grants, and
- final reports for all grants.

These reports should include both qualitative and quantitative data that speak to the indicators of progress relevant to your project. We view these reports not just as compliance tools, but as opportunities for shared learning. We encourage grantees to be candid about challenges and adaptations, as this helps us all grow and improve.

How do you define a program or project budget?

All applicants are expected to submit a program/department budget under which the proposed work falls. We have provided a budget template for you [here](#) or you are welcome to submit your own as long as it has the information listed in the template. As illustrated in the template, please include how much of the total program/department budget you are requesting from the foundation. In the narrative, please describe how you anticipate using a grant from the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation.

Is there a cap on administrative/in-direct overhead?

In general, we do not typically fund indirect costs that exceed 10% of total requests. We have included a line item for indirect costs in the program budget template. Please indicate how much of the program/department budget is indirect.

What do you mean by “we do not fund patient assistance dollars”?

We define patient assistance funds as direct compensation for dental care to individuals by Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. We will consider supporting programs and processes that organizations have in place to help individuals access and/or navigate access to care, including maximizing public entitlement benefits.

Will these grants fund existing oral health programs? For example, if we are already providing oral health services, but need additional funds to supplement or expand services, would we be eligible?

Theoretically yes, this would be eligible, as long as it is in line with the focus area priorities. We encourage you to contact your program officer to discuss further.

Would you consider the purchase of a mobile unit to either provide transportation or actual services within the unit?

We do support programs that utilize mobile units to deliver services or provide transportation. However, we do not fund the purchase of vehicles. Eligible expenses may include equipment used within a mobile unit or staff salaries related to operating the unit.

Will you consider funding...

Salary support such as a dentist, dental hygienist or dental assistant?

Yes, we will consider salary support, but we encourage grantees to include a plan that describes how this position will be sustained. We would look to Medicaid funding, HRSA funding, or other blended and braided types of funding to provide the bulk of this FTE's salary cost in the long term.

Water filling stations?

No, we will not fund water-filling stations at this time.

The purchase of a vehicle to either provide transportation or actual services within the vehicle?

No, the purchase of a vehicle is not something we would consider since we will not fund capital costs as part of this fund. However, we invite you to learn more about our [Mission-Related Investments](#). Also, we will consider applications that address transportation challenges, but not vehicles themselves.

Public policy work?

Public policy work is important to advancing oral health, but this RFP will not fund policy-focused projects. If your project centers on policy change or advocacy, we encourage you to connect with our staff to discuss how your ideas might align with future funding opportunities.

Individual schools (or does it need to be an application from the district)?

Yes, individual schools or districts can apply.

Will you fund construction or capital expenses through this RFP?

No, this RFP will not fund building construction, renovations, major dental equipment, or other capital projects. If you are seeking support for capital expenditures, we encourage you to explore our [Mission-Related Investments](#) program.

However, we may consider funding smaller-scale items, such as supplies needed to outfit a room or support portable service delivery — but not the construction or renovation of the space itself.

Do you fund pilot projects or only established programs?

Yes, we fund both pilot projects and established programs.

We recognize that innovation is essential to advancing oral health equity. Pilot projects can be a powerful way to test new ideas, approaches, or partnerships that have the potential to improve access to care or strengthen prevention efforts. At the same time, we value the stability and proven impact of established programs.

If you are proposing a pilot project, we encourage you to consider the following:

- **Budget and scope:** Ensure your budget is reasonable and aligned with the scale of the pilot. We will assess whether the funding request is appropriate for the proposed activities and outcomes.
- **Collaboration:** Identify key partners involved in the pilot and describe their roles. Strong partnerships can enhance feasibility and sustainability.
- **Evidence-informed approach:** Describe how your pilot draws on evidence-based or evidence-informed practices, or how it builds on promising models. If your approach is new, explain why it's worth testing and how you plan to evaluate its effectiveness.
- **Learning and adaptation:** We value learning. Be clear about how you will track progress, what success looks like, and how you will adapt based on what you learn.

We encourage applicants to connect with a program officer early in the process to discuss how your pilot aligns with our strategic priorities and indicators of progress.

Can a project address both Access and Prevention?

We welcome cross-cutting proposals that address both Access and Prevention and recognize that many effective oral health initiatives naturally span both focus areas.

However, for the purposes of this RFP, you will need to select one primary focus area — either Access or Prevention — under which to apply. Choose the one that most closely aligns with your project's core goals, activities, and intended outcomes.

If you're unsure which focus area best fits your proposal, we encourage you to contact a program officer for guidance before submitting your application.

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What is the typical grant size and duration?

We will consider one-year grants or multi-year grants of up to three years. The maximum award is \$75,000 per year.

Please note that DDCOF has limited funding available, and grant awards will be determined based on several factors, including:

- The project budget and financial need
- The scope of work and potential impact
- The organization's historical funding from DDCOF
- Alignment with our strategic focus areas and indicators of progress
- The number and quality of proposals received

Our goal is to ensure that funding levels are commensurate with the scale and feasibility of each proposed project.