DELTA DENTAL
ArkansasFoundation



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Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Education Grants: Funding Guidelines

The Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation (DDARF) works to transform oral health through collaboration, innovation, education, and service. We support initiatives that prioritize oral health issues through treatment, prevention, education, and access.

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1. Deadlines & Eligibility Snapshot

- **Funding Range:** Grants are between **$2,500 - $30,000** per organization.
- **Funding Term:** Funding is for **one calendar year**.
- **Funding Focus:** Oral Health Education Grants must have a **primary focus** on providing education around oral hygiene and the prevention of disease. Projects with a main focus on treatment or prevention should be submitted as Community Grant applications.
- **Who Can Apply:** Must be an **Arkansas-based** 501(c)(3) nonprofit, government agency, school, or charitable dental treatment facility.
- **Grants are not provided to individuals.**
- **Please note:**
    - An eligible organization can only be funded for an Oral Health Education Grant **once per year**.
    - Final reports for previously funded grants **must be submitted** before a new application is made.
- **Deadlines & Notifications (2026-2027)**:

Submission Deadline	Final Evaluation Date	Decision Notification Date
December 18th, 2026	February 5th 2027	Week of February 8th, 2027
March 5th, 2027	May 7th, 2027	Week of May 10th, 2027
June 4th, 2027	August 6th, 2027	Week of August 9th, 2027
September 3rd, 2027	November 5th, 2027	Week of November 8th, 2027
December 3rd, 2027	TBD, February 2028	TBD, February 2028

2. Using the Funds (Fundable vs. Non-Fundable Costs)

While the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation will consider proposals based on their merits, funding requests must meet the guidelines below.

Grant funds may be requested for:

- **Program Staff Salaries or Stipends/Administrative Costs:** Paying for administrative staff or administrative costs specific to the funded program.
- **Equipment and Supplies (Capital Needs):** One-time expenses like new equipment and supplies associated with the oral health program.
- **Dental Treatment Supplies:** Expenses and supplies used directly in the provision of treatment or prevention services.
- **Program Operations:** Day-to-day costs to run the program, such as:
    - Facility rental (renting space). If you are requesting rental funding, quotes must be included.
    - Utilities (like electricity or water). Note the Foundation will only fund the expected cost of utilities related to the oral health program.
    - Travel.
    - Marketing.
    - Training.

Funds Cannot Be Used For:

The Foundation strictly funds **charitable oral health programs**. We do not fund expenses that support for-profit activities, insurance-billable services, or anything that creates a private financial benefit for individuals or businesses.

Important: If your organization operates both charitable and for-profit programs, you must show clear separation between the two—both in your financial records and your daily operations.

Ineligible Expenses

The Foundation **will not** provide funding for the following:

- **Payments to Patients or Third Parties:** We cannot fund direct financial assistance for treatment to the people you serve. This includes:
    - **Direct Payments:** Cash or checks given to patients, clients, or beneficiaries.
    - **Vouchers:** Gift cards or vouchers given to patients to pay for dental work.
    - **Reimbursements & Debt:** Paying bills on behalf of a patient or paying off a patient's existing debt.

- **Clinical Staff Salaries:** We do not fund salaries for clinical work. This specifically applies to:
    - **Clinical Pay:** Wages or salaries for dentists and hygienists for the time they spend treating patients (often called "chairside time" or "billable hours").
    - **Exception:** We may consider funding the salary of *administrative* positions, for example, a clinic manager or care co-ordinator, but only for time spent managing the specific components of the grant program and involving no for-profit clinical/patient care duties.
- **Non-Charitable & Business Expenses:** We only fund costs that directly support the charitable purpose of the grant. We do not fund:
    - **For-Profit Activities:** Any costs related to commercial clinics or programs designed primarily to generate revenue.
    - **General Overhead:** Operating costs that do not specifically advance the charitable goals of the grant.
    - **Unrelated Marketing:** Advertising or branding that is not tied to a specific charitable initiative.
    - **Private Benefit:** Any activity that profits a private individual or a for-profit company.
    - **Capital Improvements:** Renovations or construction, *unless* the project is specifically designed to expand access for underserved populations.
- **Other Prohibited Uses:** The Foundation also prohibits the use of funds for:
    - **Lobbying:** Any political lobbying.
    - **Fundraising:** Costs for hosting fundraising events or sponsorships.
    - **Endowments:** Contributions to private foundations or endowment funds.
    - **Debt Reduction:** Paying off your organization’s existing debt.
    - **Profit Margins:** Charging "markups" or fees that are higher than the actual market cost.
    - **Excessive Costs:** Unreasonably high salaries, luxury travel, or expensive gifts/incentives.
    - **Discriminatory Programs:** Any program that discriminates against people on any basis.

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3. Grant-Making Focus & Required Impact (What We Fund)

- Proposals must have a clear **oral health focus**.

- **Impact:** Your project must benefit underserved, uninsured, and/or underinsured Arkansans.
- **Project Focus:** The **main focus** of your project should be oral health **education**.
- **Required Knowledge:** If focused on patients or communities, programs must build healthy habits related to:
    - **Brushing teeth**
    - **Flossing teeth**
    - **Visiting a dentist**

  They could also include the connection between oral health and overall health, and/or discuss oral health workforce opportunities.

  If focused on providers, programs must be aimed at increasing oral health knowledge and/or treatment connections.

- **Evidence:** You must use **evidence-based programming** with a process for measuring any change in oral health knowledge or behavior (like a pre- and post-program assessment).
- **Note on Education:** Projects with a primary focus on treatment or prevention of disease should be submitted through our Community process. Proposals with a primary focus on treatment or prevention of oral disease **will not be considered** under the Oral Health Education Grant.

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4. Proposal Content Checklist (What to Submit)

All project proposals must include:

- A thoroughly complete **Application**.
- Verification of your **eligibility status**. If the organization is a 501(c)3, this must be your original determination letter from the IRS that clearly displays the name, EIN, and location of your organization.
- A mechanism for the **Impact of Learning** on knowledge and/or behavior.
- Complete **Implementation Plan** (template included in application).
- Complete **Budget Form and Narrative** (template included in application), and **Supply Quotes** for any proposed purchases.
- Identification of any additional **funding already secured or solicited**.

To be considered for funding, you must submit all required documents and respond promptly to any follow-up questions. If your application is incomplete or has unanswered questions by the deadline, it will be returned to draft status.

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5. Prioritized Project Features (What Makes You Stand Out)

DDARF prefers grant requests that incorporate the following:

- Active **collaboration** among organizations, schools, and/or healthcare providers.
- An understanding of the **needs of the community served**.
- **Referral protocols** that link people needing dental care with a source of care.
- **Wrap-around support** that links participants to other social services.
- Starting oral health programs in **counties where none or few exist**.
- **Meaningful measurement of impact** that will assess long-term changes in behavior in addition to immediate impact.

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6. Reporting and Evaluation Requirements

- **Evaluation:** Programs must have the ability to **monitor, assess, and document** the impact and progress of the changes being sought.
- **Reporting Requirements include:**
    - Regular check-in calls/site visits (as applicable).
    - **Interim and final program evaluation**, including outcomes and tracked measurement data.
    - **Location data:** The final report will request participant numbers by county.
    - **Qualitative and Quantitative data**, such as images and anecdotes, in addition to numerical data

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To apply for funding, please access the application online