



Oral Health Improvement Project 2008

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Endowed in 1999 to promote and serve the health care needs of the people of Colorado, the Caring for Colorado Foundation's vision is to ensure that the people of Colorado are the healthiest in the nation.

Caring for Colorado Foundation believes in these core values:

- < Health care services should be accessible, affordable and available for all.
- < Barriers to care should be minimized, especially for underserved populations.
- < Prevention, health promotion and direct services are all needed to impact the root causes of health problems.
- < People should share responsibility for maximizing their own health.

Therefore, to continue to positively impact **oral health** in Colorado in a way that reflects these values and to address the oral health needs of the underserved, Caring for Colorado Foundation announces a funding opportunity through its **Oral Health Improvement Project** - a ten year, \$10 million effort to:

- I. Increase the oral health safety net's long-term capacity to meet the needs of the underserved in Colorado.**
 - a. Increase the availability of low-cost oral health services in underserved communities.
 - b. Reduce barriers (cultural, language, geographic and financial) for preventive and restorative dental care for underserved populations.
 - c. Reduce oral health disparities in affected populations.

II. Enable a new generation of Colorado children to be free of the devastating consequences of oral disease.

- a. Increase the availability of preventive education and services for low-income families, with special emphasis on families with children age 3 and younger.
- b. Increase the availability of preventive education and services for low-income pregnant women and new mothers.
- c. Increase attention to the prevention of oral disease in children by creating meaningful collaborations between oral health and health care providers.
- d. Reduce barriers to care (cultural, language, geographic and financial) to preventive services for low-income children.

III. Develop lasting solutions for addressing the oral health needs of Colorado's underserved.

- a. Develop public policies and funding mechanisms that result in increased access to care for low-income, uninsured adults.
- b. Develop incentives to increase participation among private dentists to provide care to children on Medicaid.
- c. Develop new systems of care that encourage primary prevention of oral disease in children starting at birth.

Caring for Colorado is requesting proposals from community-based non-profit or governmental agencies for the Oral Health Improvement Project. The deadline to submit a proposal is **June 27, 2008, 5:00 PM** at the Caring for Colorado offices. Organizations can apply for a maximum of three years of funding. **Grant requests cannot exceed \$150,000 per year per organization.**

Caring for Colorado is committed to having local communities develop local solutions to their oral health needs. Therefore, as long as the proposed project addresses one of the goals and one of the objectives above, it will be considered. The projects that will be given the highest priority for funding, however, include at least one of the following:

- < Programs that address access to oral health services for low-income families including initiatives that encourage children on Medicaid and CHP+ to use their dental benefits and expanding the number of providers that provide care to children with Medicaid and CHP+.
- < Collaboration between medical providers and oral health providers to provide prevention education, risk assessment and referrals to oral health care in the medical care setting.
- < Programs that expand an organization's capacity to provide oral health services to underserved populations. This can include capital construction, renovations, equipment, care coordination and dental teams.

- < New programs that bring dental services into communities without dental care or with very limited dental care.
- < Programs that work to recruit and retain dental providers in the oral health safety net.
- < Programs that target funds to improve oral health status among low-income, high need pregnant women. This can include programs that: address periodontal disease in pregnant women; work to educate mothers about future oral health risks and prevention strategies for their infants; and work to make a dental visit part of quality prenatal care.
- < Programs that work to establish a dental home for children and ensure they receive their first dental visit by age one.
- < Programs that implement prevention approaches for young children such as: fluoride varnishes, anticipatory guidance for parents, differing levels of interventions based on risk assessment criteria and dental sealants.
- < Programs that focus treatment and education efforts on the entire family.
- < Programs that partner with non-dental community agencies who work with young children, such as physician practices, public health, WIC, Head Start and schools to promote the prevention of oral disease in high-risk populations.
- < Programs that encourage increased participation among private dentists to provide care to children on Medicaid.
- < Efforts that raise awareness and advocacy on behalf of the oral health needs of the underserved.
- < Efforts that work for legislative and policy options to improve access to preventive and restorative services for the underserved, especially among high-need adults.

Successful grant proposals will include:

- < **Demonstration of community need.** Examples of this could include:
 - o Total number of Medicaid-eligible children compared to the number of Medicaid children receiving dental care.
 - o Total number of CHP+ eligible children compared to the number of children receiving services through CHP+.
 - o Description of the underserved and what dental resources are available to them.
 - o The number of low-income adults in the community and the number of dentists to provide care at a low or reduced cost.
 - o Prevalence of childhood caries.
 - o Number of hospitalizations that were due to a lack of access to primary oral health care.
- < **Underserved population(s) as the target.** The underserved are defined as those who do not have access to preventive or restorative oral health care due to financial, cultural, linguistic or geographic barriers.
- < **Time-limited and measurable project objectives.** This should also include a description of how the proposed project will work to achieve one of the goals and one of the objectives of the Oral Health Improvement Project as listed above.
- < **A detailed evaluation plan that includes outcome measures.**
- < **Community collaboration.** A description of community agencies that will collaborate on the project and the nature of their collaboration.
- < **A plan for how the project will be sustained beyond grant funding.** For multi-year projects that are adding new services, a business plan is recommended as part of the grant proposal. Please contact Linda Reiner at 720-524-0770 for more information.

Through the **Oral Health Improvement Project**, CFC will not fund the following:

- < Dental screening programs that do not have a treatment component.
- < Pools of funds to pay for individuals' dental treatment, hospitalization or prescription medication.
- < Computer systems for patient record keeping, appointment scheduling, accounting, etc.
- < Computer hardware or software.
- < Curriculum development for community-based or school-based prevention programs.
- < Lobbying efforts.
- < Research projects.
- < Motor Vehicles.

All agencies receiving funding for the Caring for Colorado Oral Health Improvement Project may be required to participate in an external evaluation. Caring for Colorado will provide technical assistance in this effort.

To apply, follow Caring for Colorado Foundation's Grant Guidelines. They can be obtained by calling 720-524-0770 or at www.caringforcolorado.org. Applicants are encouraged to call Linda Reiner, Director of Planning and Evaluation at Caring for Colorado, prior to submission to make sure the proposed project fits with the goals of the Oral Health Improvement Project. Grants from this Caring for Colorado special initiative are very competitive. Generally, less than 10 awards are given annually in this area. \$1 million dollars will be awarded in 2008.

Descriptions of past Oral Health Improvement Project grant awardees can be viewed at www.caringforcolorado.org.

Oral Health Improvement Project 2008 Deadline:

**June 27, 2008, 5:00 PM
at the Caring for Colorado Foundation office.**

Caring for Colorado Foundation
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