



Rowan County Health Department
1811 East Innes Street – Salisbury, NC 28146-6030

MEMO

To: Rowan County Board of Commissioners
CC: Aaron Church, County Manager
From: Alyssa Harris, Public Health Director
Subject: American Academy of Pediatric Dentists and Delta Dental
Date: November 9, 2022

Situation:

Rowan County Department of Public Health wishes to apply for grant funding to assist in providing needed services to the members of our community. These funds allow us to address issues such as oral healthcare for prenatal mothers, and dental outreach to children in our elementary schools.

Background:

The Rowan County Health Department's Smile Center has implemented a prenatal dental program which intervenes to address oral hygiene issues, which if untreated, can negatively impact the health of mothers' as well as, of the newborn infants. This program, sponsored by Delta Dental, allows us to assist approximately 8-10 patients per year. Our goal is to improve birth weight by proactive treatment of expectant mothers, many of whom are uninsured and would not otherwise receive this care. The Access to Care grant from The American Association of Pediatric Dentistry will support dental outreach activities in our local elementary schools. This will encourage and support appropriate dental hygiene behaviors in our youth and will establish a schedule of dental maintenance and treatments which impact overall healthcare for our children.

Access to Care- American Association of Pediatric Dentistry - \$20,000

This grant targets children ages 3-8 for dental examinations, treatment and follow up referrals. This grant will support our mobile dental clinics in our elementary schools in Rowan County

Smiles for Kids Grants - Delta Dental Foundation - \$5000

The Prenatal Oral Healthcare Program provides dental education and treatment for clients from vulnerable and at-risk groups in our community. There is a direct correlation between good oral healthcare of pregnant mothers and healthy fetal development and this program allows us to provide necessary interventions to improve health outcomes for both the mother and the developing child.

Assessment:

If awarded funding, RCPH will be able to provide services to two of the most vulnerable populations in our community, children, and uninsured prenatal clients, who most often delay care due to economic, transportation and other access issues. The programs supported by these programs positively impact the health outcomes for marginalized and underserved individuals in our community.

Recommendations:

Rowan County Public respectfully request permission from the Board of Commissioners to apply for funding to continue these important initiatives that provide valuable services in our community.