

Call for Access to Care Grant Guidelines



AAPD
FOUNDATION®
Big Love for Little Teeth

Funding Opportunity: up to \$30,000

Funding timing: April 2026 to March 2027

Application submission deadline: September 19, 2025

Review and approval timeframe: September 2025 to February 2026

Update notices to be sent on: December 2025 and February 2026

Grant agreements distributed: March 2026

Monies disbursed: April 2026

Who we are

The AAPD Foundation is the nation's largest dentist-led charity dedicated exclusively to child oral health. Affiliated with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the Foundation believes every child deserves comprehensive and continuously accessible oral health care, regardless of location, background, and barriers.

Since entering the access to care space in 2010, the Foundation has issued more than \$11 million in grants and commitments to 168 nonprofit provider clinics in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Together, we have helped our grantees provide healthy smiles to more than 840,000 children.



Our whys

Why do we fund Access to Care Grants?

The AAPD Foundation recognizes that our best chance to help children get the care they need is to work with local organizations that already know their community's oral health care needs.

Why does this matter?

We understand that working with organizations deeply embedded in their communities is crucial for children to receive the oral health care they need. By funding organizations that are intimately familiar with the unique challenges and needs of their communities, we can ensure that our grants have a meaningful impact on improving access to oral health care for children.

Why is it a One Year Access to Care Grant?

The One Year Access to Care Grant serves as an introductory opportunity for organizations to showcase their commitment to providing comprehensive oral health care to children. One Year Access to Care Grant recipients receive \$30,000 over 12 months, any organization that meets the application requirements can apply.

On an invitation basis only, organizations may apply for a Three Year Access to Care Grant, based on a pool of existing Access to Care grantees. This pool includes previous or current One Year Access to Care grantees who have delivered adequate reports, shared patient narratives, images, or video testimonials, and provided outcomes data while serving as a One Year Access to Care grantee.

Why should you apply?

The AAPD Foundation reinforces standardized oral health care for all child patients. All Access to Care Grants will receive the latest edition of the AAPD's Reference Manual of Pediatric Dentistry, which outlines oral health policies and recommendations for dentists practicing on child patients.

New this year, all grant recipients will have access to an online networking platform where all funded organizations can engage with one another in discussions, provide resources, and exchange ideas.

AAPD Foundation Policies

Policy on Organizational Eligibility

The AAPD Foundation creates, identifies, and supports local, state, and regional initiatives providing dental care to underserved children. This includes promoting the importance of optimal oral health for all children.

The AAPD Foundation does not accept unsolicited inquiries or proposals.

Foundation-supported initiatives must meet one of the priority strategies below:

Supporting community-based initiatives providing oral health care to underserved children, increasing our reach in under-resourced communities.

Fostering understanding of child oral health challenges through outcomes tracking, demographic/community mapping and independent research.

Developing and/or support public education initiatives promoting the importance of oral health for all children.

Policy on Patient Eligibility

The AAPD Foundation defines children as 18 years of age and younger, consistent with Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program eligibility requirements.

Furthermore, because the Foundation recognizes children should not be penalized by forces beyond their control, all Foundation grant applicants and grant recipients must acknowledge all presenting children are eligible for care, regardless of gender, race, lifestyle preferences, family financial capacity, national origin, or citizenship status.

Do I qualify to apply

All non-private dental and/or medical organizations located in the United States and its Territories are welcome to apply. This includes:

- * **Nonprofit 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) organizations**
- * **University-affiliated dental schools, their clinics, and adjunct locations**
- * **Community college-affiliated programs**
- * **Local health jurisdictions, county health departments, and hospitals/clinics**

Non-qualified organizations include:

- * **Private dental practices and/or individual practitioners**
- * **Non-domestic programs of US-based organizations**

Only initiatives under the direct supervision of a dentist (pediatric dentist preferred, but not required) are considered.

How to apply

Grant interface information

The AAPD Foundation utilizes the Foundant Technologies grant interface platform. We urge all organizations interested to create an account to access the 2026-2027 Access to Care Grant. If you believe your organization has a profile on the grant interface and need help accessing the account, contact Grants and Programs Assistant Manager Jasmine Williams.

Application information

The 2026-2027 Access to Care Grant does not contain a password and can be accessed through the main dashboard upon login.

Previously funded projects

More than just addressing immediate dental needs, our Access to Care Grants aim to play a vital role in promoting preventive care, educating families, and fostering long-term oral health habits in children. By addressing barriers to care, such as transportation, language, and financial constraints, as well as reinforcing healthy at-home habits, we can help children lead healthier lives and prevent costly dental emergencies in the future.

Below are examples of how previously funded organizations utilized grant monies. We do not restrict unique/nontraditional requests or programs that may apply. Our funding can include, but is not limited to, what we have funded in past projects:

- * Flights
- * Rideshare
- * Van/car transportation
- * Gas/mileage reimbursement
- * Language Barriers
- * Translated materials
- * In-person interpreter
- * Translator
- * Dental Instruments, supplies, and equipment
- * Educational materials
- * Oral health care pamphlets
- * Brushing charts
- * Dental teeth model/stuffed animal
- * Activity sheets
- * Books and booklets
- * Offset for direct patient expenses
- * Extra clinic hours
- * Additional hours to a workday
- * Opening clinic on a weekend
- * Salary supplement for: Pediatric dentists, general dentists, and other dental professionals
- * Community Health Worker
- * Community Outreach Worker
- * Interpreter

The AAPD Foundation is open to nontraditional projects. All funding requests must directly relate back to how child patients are ending up in the dental chair.

Patient Demographics

- * **Child patients**

The AAPD Foundation funds applications providing care for patients 18 and younger, consistent with Medicaid and The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility requirements.

- * **Low-income populations**

- * **Vulnerable populations**

- * **Migrants and transient populations**

If you have questions about project permissibility, please contact Grants and Programs Assistant Manager, Jasmine Williams, with details. (jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org).



Project details

Your who, what, when, where, and how: Who are you helping?

What demographic of child patients is this project serving?

- *Federally Funded Programs (Medicaid, etc.)
- * Private insurance
- * Uninsured
- * Unable to qualify for public assistance
- * Migrant or recently immigrated population
- * Other (specify)

What do you need to help them?

Detail how funding for this project will be spent

When is this happening? And why?

Provide a monthly calendar on project specifics and deadlines

Where is this happening? And why?

Is the project specifically happening in the clinic, schools, community partners, etc.

How is this funding going to end up with kids getting comprehensive oral health care?

How does your end goal directly result in child patients getting comprehensive oral health care from your organization?

What is the end goal? What does this project accomplish?



Providing comprehensive oral health care

How does your organization provide equitable oral health care to child patients?

Do you refer out? And if so, how do you maintain a relationship with those patients?

What barriers does your organization face in providing accessible oral health care? Please see the examples below.

- * Long waitlist for treatments including OR time
- * Transportation for patients
- * Race, ethnicity, and/or cultural representation in staff
- * Language barriers
- * Trust in healthcare/organization

Thank you for all you do in providing comprehensive oral healthcare for children. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our Grants and Programs Assistant Manager at (773) 938-4989 or jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org.

