

a publication of the **AAPD**
FOUNDATION

the smile

Full Grantees List 2025



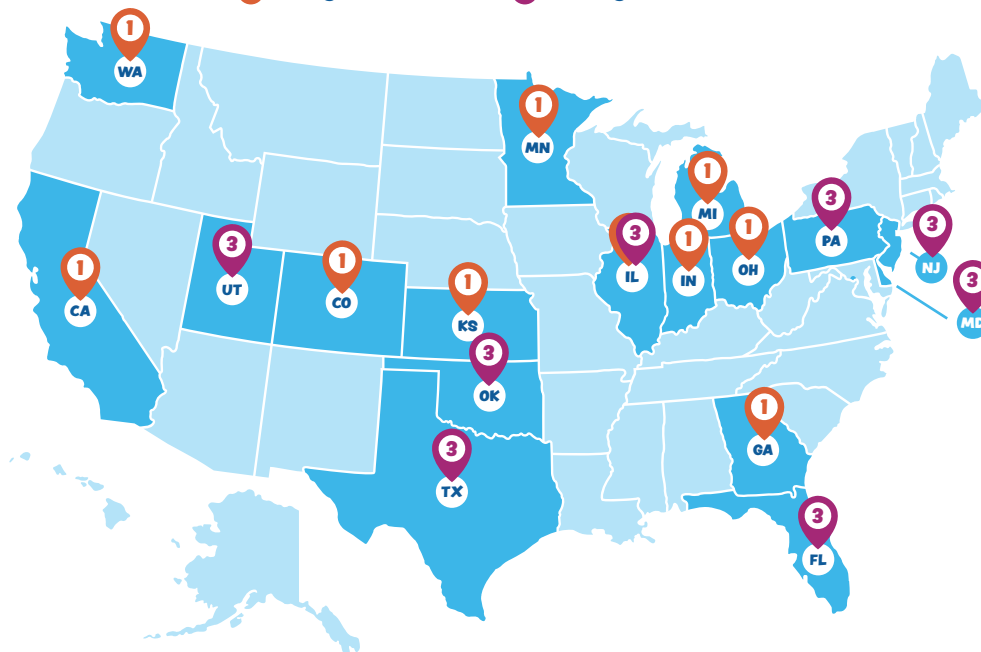
Putting our mission into action

Since 2010, the AAPD Foundation has issued more than \$11.3 million in grants to nonprofit clinics across the country to support healthy smiles, address barriers to care, and nurture children's health.

Our grant recipients are Healthy Smile Heroes!

Active Access to Care Grant Recipients

● One Year Grantees ● Three Year Grantees



One Year Access to Care Grant recipients

Our best chance to help children get the care they need is to work with local organizations that already know the barriers to care facing children in their communities. One Year Access to Care Grants support local clinics that demonstrate a commitment to overcoming those barriers and providing comprehensive oral health care to children. Selected applicants can receive one-year grants for up to \$30,000.

Akron Children's Hospital

Akron, OH

AltaMed Health Services Corp

Los Angeles, CA

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Cincinnati, OH

Ethne Health

Clarkston, GA

Health Ministries Clinic

Newton, KS

InterCare Community Health Center

Benton Harbor, MI

St. John's Community Health

Los Angeles, CA

The Denver Health Foundation

Denver, CO

Trustees of Indiana University

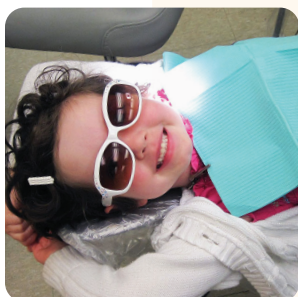
Bloomington, IN

United We Smile

Traverse City, MI

University of Washington Center for Pediatric Dentistry

Seattle, WA





“Thank you to the dental surgery team for easing our nerves and for communicating with my non-verbal son in a way that he could understand – by using his favorite stuffed animal as a “patient”! Thank you for treating him with dignity, but most especially, love.”

Mother of Alex

St. Bernard Dental Center

Chicago, IL

Eight-year-old Alex, a sweet and curious child with autism, needed specialized dental care under sedation. The journey to get it was not simple. With limited finances and a five-hour trip to the clinic, Alex’s family faced an overwhelming challenge.

Thanks to the dedication of the entire team at St. Bernard Dental Center, they were able to make it possible. Through virtual consultations and coordination with Alex’s primary care doctor, they gathered all the necessary documentation. On the day of surgery, the staff helped arrange transportation and housing, ensuring the family could focus on what mattered most – Alex’s care.

Because of this team effort, Alex received all the dental treatment needed safely and comfortably.

University of Minnesota Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic

Minneapolis, MN

Ethan is a bright young teen from rural Minnesota who faced an uphill battle to receive basic dental care. Ethan had dental anxiety, and access to dentists who are comfortable treating children with cleft and craniofacial differences is nearly nonexistent in his area. When he came to U of MN Craniofacial Clinic, the exam revealed caries on every single tooth – some beyond repair – despite his mother’s tireless efforts to find care.

Ethan’s mother tried multiple clinics, but the complexity of his condition meant he was repeatedly referred elsewhere. Even though they had state insurance, very few providers accepted it, and even fewer could treat someone with his specialized needs. On top of that, Ethan had other medical conditions that further strained the family’s limited resources.

Thanks to the Access to Care Grant, the U of MN Craniofacial Clinic team stepped in where others could not. Even though their clinic was out-of-network for Ethan’s insurance, the funding from the AAPD Foundation allowed them to provide Ethan the comprehensive dental care he urgently needed and deserved.



Do you know an organization caring for kids that might be a good fit for an Access to Care Grant?

Visit aapdfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/ to view our Grant Guidelines.

Applications open in July 2026.

Three Year Access to Care Grant recipients

Improving dental health care access requires innovation and time for solutions to work. Recognizing this, the AAPD Foundation invites qualified One Year Access to Care Grantees to apply for \$225,000, three-year grants, amplifying their resources and reach. Three Year Access to Care Grants support continuous, comprehensive oral health care for children through ongoing dentist-patient relationships that are accessible, coordinated, and family-centered.



KinderSmile Foundation

KinderSmile Foundation's Link to a Dental Home · Bloomfield, New Jersey

KinderSmile Foundation was founded in the community and for the community to fill a gap in available resources for children in New Jersey. KinderSmile's clinics are free of typical barriers to care that underserved communities face – they accept all patients regardless of insurance status and behavioral management needs, offer ease of transportation, offer flexible hours for working parents, and care for very young children.

KinderSmile turns no patient away and their focus on offering compassionate, culturally sensitive care builds healthy lifelong oral health habits and confidence. The Access to Care Grant is funding clinical supplies and salaries of dental care providers at the clinic and helping them to deliver essential, barrier-free dental care to over 6,000 underserved children per year.

Visit [KinderSmile.org](https://www.kindersmile.org) to learn more.



Caridad Center

Health Equity for All · Boynton Beach, FL

Caridad Center is a dental care safety net to marginalized community members and offers a full range of free dental services, including oral care and prevention education, cleanings, extractions, emergency treatments and surgeries. The Access to Care Grant is expanding Caridad's resources to include an additional pediatric dentist on staff and additional hours of operation for pediatric appointments on Saturdays so children do not miss school. By increasing preventive care, improving treatment completion rates, and connecting families to comprehensive health services, Caridad is ensuring high quality dental care for historically marginalized children.

Visit [Caridad.org](https://www.caridad.org) to learn more.



Want to learn more about how CommuniCare is helping Texas kids? Read about the Healthy Smile Hero's visit to the clinic.



CommuniCare Health Centers

CommuniCare Health Centers Pediatric Dentistry Program
San Antonio, TX



CommuniCare works to educate parents and patients alike, helping eliminate the cycle of poor oral health often seen within impoverished families.

The Access to Care Grant money covers a portion of the salary of CommuniCare's pediatric dental provider, who see patients at both the East and West campuses of the clinic and provides pediatric patients with oral exams, cleanings, sealants, fillings, extractions, stainless steel crowns, pulpotomies, space maintainers, nitrous oxide, and levels 1 and 2 sedations. This funding will enhance CommuniCare's ability to continue providing specialty care to San Antonio's most vulnerable communities.

Visit CommuniCareSA.org to learn more.

Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic

Dental Home for Children with Special Health Care Needs · Lancaster, PA

The Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic (LCPC) uses support from the AAPD Foundation to improve access to high quality pediatric dental care for children with special health care needs in Central Pennsylvania, a dental health provider shortage area.

The Grant is funding additional clinical staff members, pediatric dental equipment, and an additional pediatric dentist to give the clinic increased capacity to address its high demand for services. LCPC's interdisciplinary craniofacial team treats children with cleft and craniofacial differences. Their primary mission is to care for children with a high burden of dental needs. Patients are often experiencing the effects of poverty, extensive tooth decay, and/or behavioral challenges such as autism.

Support from Access to Care Grants has helped the Clinic grow their pediatric dental program by 39% over the last five years.

Visit CleftClinic.org to learn more.

Want a look inside America's first cleft palate clinic? Check out the Healthy Smile Hero's blog!



"The clinic put our minds and hearts were ease. There's so much support, expertise, and wisdom there. We not only had peace but a sense of belonging and family."

Mother of patient at LCPC



Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society

Dental Home for Low-Income Chicago-Area Children • Oak Park, IL

Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society (OPRF IWS) Children's Clinic provides affordable dental care to low-income children in western Cook County and is one of the only safety nets in the area for families with public insurance or no insurance. OPRF IWS provides full preventive and restorative pediatric care, including oral exams, oral health education, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, extractions, cavity repair, and space maintainers. The Access to Care Grant is supporting the salaries of the clinic's pediatric dentists. The funds have been instrumental in stabilizing the clinic's dental team as it works to expand services to children with special health care needs, children who have complex or extensive oral health problems, and children with behavioral health challenges.

Visit ChildrensClinicIWS.org to learn more.



University of Maryland, Baltimore

Oral Health for Underserved Uninsured Children (OH-UUC)
Baltimore, MD

OH-UUC addresses the oral health needs for the Baltimore community's undocumented children, children from limited income, and uninsured families, providing comprehensive care including chronic disease management, oral health education, preventive services, restorative care, and advanced behavior guidance techniques including nitrous oxide and sedation.

A high percentage of undocumented patients come from Spanish-speaking families, and a bilingual staff member contacts those families to set up appointments and works with providers for needed patient communication.

The Access to Care Grant is helping OH-UUC expand to include advanced services such as permanent teeth endodontics, minor surgical procedures (performed by oral surgery), early orthodontic interventions, and treatment in the operating room setting.

Visit Dental.UMaryland.edu to learn more.

Community Volunteers in Medicine

Comprehensive Dental Care for Low-Income,
Uninsured Children • West Chester, PA

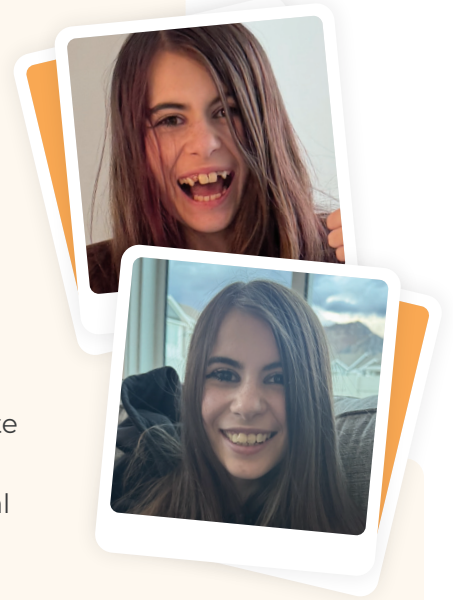
Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) provides preventive, restorative and emergency services, along with oral health education and dental hygiene supplies for low-income, uninsured members of their community. Many of these families speak primarily Spanish. The Access to Care Grant is funding additional hours for a bilingual pediatric dentist who is certified to use nitrous oxide. This is important for young children with significant issues who may have never seen a dentist and react with strong anxiety. The grant is also funding a dental assistant who works chairside with the dentist, coordinates care with families, and helps facilitate CVIM's partnership with local school districts. Over the past six months, grant funding has enabled CVIM to provide comprehensive care for more than 400 uninsured, low-income children through school and Head Start partnerships.

Visit CVIM.org to learn more.

Salt Lake Donated Dental Services

Community Pediatric Sedation Project • Salt Lake City, UT

Salt Lake Donated Dental Services (SLDDS) works diligently to increase equity by advancing access to essential and critical healthcare in their community despite the social determinants of health. Children often present at the clinic in need of extensive dental care. Oftentimes the only way SLDDS can provide the dental care they need is with general anesthesia services. The Access to Care Grant is funding safe, affordable sedation services and comprehensive dental treatment for up to 240 children. SLDDS's pediatric dentist and anesthesiologist work to complete all necessary procedures and treatment to restore the child's oral health in a single appointment, restoring their oral health and reducing financial barriers for families. Visit DonatedDental.org to learn more.



PATIENT STORY

When Heather and her daughter Grace moved to Utah, they were unable to qualify for Medicaid and unable to afford private insurance. Without coverage, they lost access to every medical and dental service they once relied on. Heather faced the painful reality of not being able to get her daughter the care she needed.

Grace's teeth were broken and damaged, and she endured cruel bullying at school because of her appearance. She stopped smiling and laughing, afraid of being ridiculed or hurt again. It was devastating for Heather to watch her daughter's confidence disappear, knowing she couldn't afford the costly dental treatment.

Their situation changed when a counselor at the junior high referred the family to Salt Lake Donated Dental Services. The clinic's director welcomed them with compassion and created an affordable, step-by-step treatment plan. Under the care of the skilled and caring dentists at the clinic, Grace finally received the dental procedures she had long needed.

Today, Grace's radiant smile has returned, and her confidence shines brighter than ever. Heather and Grace are deeply grateful to the doctors, staff, and generous donors whose kindness and support made this transformation possible!

Variety Care & Variety Care Foundation

Variety Care Anesthesia Initiative for Uninsured Children • Oklahoma City, OK

Variety Care is the only Central Oklahoma organization offering uninsured people comprehensive oral health care. Most of their patients struggle with poverty and the toll a lack of financial resources has on their health. Often children will need treatment under anesthesia, but hospital operating room time is minimally available, even for patients with insurance or who can self-pay. Barriers are even more significant for low-income, uninsured patients. The Access to Care Grant is funding sedation and dentist costs so Variety Care can provide sedation in a clinic setting as appropriate for individual patients.

Visit VarietyCare.org to learn more.

