

# Call for Access to Care Grant Guidelines 2027-2028



**AAPD**  
**FOUNDATION**<sup>®</sup>  
Big Love for Little Teeth

**Funding opportunity:** up to \$30,000

**Funding timing:** April 2027 to March 2028

**Application submission deadline:** September 18, 2026

**Review and approval timeframe:** September 2026 to February 2027

**Update notices to be sent:** mid-December 2026 and mid-February 2027

**Grant agreements distributed:** March 2027

**First installments:** April 2027

## 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 \$12 million in grants and commitments to 191 nonprofit provider clinics in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Together, we have helped our grantees provide healthy smiles to more than 904,000 children.



# Our whys

## Why do we offer 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 recipients of 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.

# 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 U.S.-based organizations**
- **Individuals seeking direct funding for personal care**

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 2027-2028 Access to Care Grant application. 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 2027-2028 Access to Care Grant does not contain a password and can be accessed through the main dashboard upon login.

# 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 outside of the One Year Access to Care Grant cycle.*

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

- 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 supporting public education initiatives that promote 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 (CHIP) 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 that *all* presenting children are eligible for care, regardless of gender, race, lifestyle preferences, family financial capacity, national origin, or citizenship status.

# Previously funded examples

In addition to addressing immediate dental needs, our Access to Care Grants aim to promote preventive care, educate patients and families, and foster long-term oral health habits in children. By addressing barriers to care, such as transportation, language barriers, 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:

- Flights
- Rideshare
- Van/car transportation
- Gas/mileage reimbursement
- Translated materials
- In-person interpreter
- Dental Instruments, supplies, equipment
- Educational materials

- Oral health care pamphlets
- Dental teaching puppets/  
stuffed animals
- Activity sheets
- Books and booklets
- Offset for direct patient expenses
- Extra clinic hours/opening clinic on a weekend

*Salary supplements for:*

- Pediatric dentists
- General dentists
- Dental hygienists
- Dental assistants
- Community health workers
- Community outreach workers

**Indirect costs of up to 15% may be included in submitted budgets.**

*The AAPD Foundation is open to nontraditional projects. All funding requests must directly relate back to how pediatric 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 at [jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org](mailto:jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org).



## Project details: *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 (please specify)

### What do you need to help them?

Detail how funding for this project will be spent.

### When is this happening? Why?

Provide a monthly calendar of project specifics and deadlines.

### Where is this happening? Why?

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

### How is this funding ultimately going to help kids receive comprehensive oral health care?

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

### What is the end goal? What does this project aim to 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? Barriers include, but are not limited to:

- 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 contact  
Grants and Programs Assistant Manager at [jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org](mailto:jwilliams@aapdfoundation.org).

