



# Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

## Activities by State

### Intro

Lack of a fully staffed dental team impacts patient access, unevenly redistributes responsibilities within the existing team, and leads to exacerbation of stressors on dental professionals and operation of the dental clinic. Despite variation in education and licensing requirements, there is uniformity among states in prioritizing workforce. This list provides examples of creative models of addressing the shortage of allied dental team members. Leadership of every State Dental Association has access to the most current and comprehensive resources on strategy and legislative tactics in the [ADA Workforce Toolkit](#) available on ADA Connect. If you do not have access, please contact your State Dental Associations directly. If you would like to feature your state effort please email [dentalpractice@ada.org](mailto:dentalpractice@ada.org).

### Supervision and Scope at a Glance by State

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#### HYGIENIST SUPERVISION

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Alabama is the only state remaining that requires direct supervision for hygienists regardless of the procedure they are performing. HB 1062, recently enacted in Mississippi, allows general supervision for hygienists, with the following limitations: a dental hygienist may provide services to patients of record, for not more than ten consecutive business days, the supervising dentist examined the patient of record at least seven months prior to treatment, the services are according to treatment protocol prescribed by dentist and the patient of record is notified in advance of the appointment that the supervising dentist will be absent from the location.

In 2024, state legislatures removed some restrictions on hygienist supervision. South Dakota removed a provision requiring recent active practice on the part of the hygienist before they can enter collaborative supervision. Tennessee increased the number of hygienists a dentist may supervise to five. Legislation enacted in Virginia, HB 605, allows a hygienist to treat a patient under remote supervision for 180 days before requiring the patient to be seen by a dentist (currently, the law allows this for 90 days).

HB 321, recently enacted in Montana, allows a dental hygienist to perform dental hygiene preventative services in a school-based oral health program under public health supervision.

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#### DENTAL ASSISTANT SUPERVISION

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In Alaska, a dental hygienist holding an advanced practice permit may delegate to a dental assistant the application of topical preventive agents under either indirect or direct supervision and the placement of pit and fissure sealants under direct supervision.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

In Nevada, Senate Bill 268 would allow a dental hygienist with a special endorsement to practice public health dental hygiene to authorize a dental assistant or expanded function dental assistant under his or her direct supervision to: apply dental sealants; apply topical fluoride; perform coronal polishing; take radiographs; and provide oral health education.

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#### LOCAL ANESTHESIA

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12 states allow hygienists to administer local anesthesia under general supervision: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

The Florida Board of Dentistry proposed a rule change to allow certified dental hygienists to provide local anesthesia under indirect supervision, provided the patient is eighteen years of age or older, the patient must not be sedated and the CRDH may administer intraoral block and soft tissue infiltration anesthesia.

In Iowa, HF 338, would allow the Iowa Dental Board to promulgate rules allowing dental assistants to administer local anesthesia. HF 805, which was enacted, will allow for an assistant to practice without being registered by the dental board, provided that they complete a term of practical training under the supervision of a dentist, as specified by the dental board.

In New Hampshire, HB144, would specify that a hygienist may administer local anesthesia only after sufficient training and passage of an examination by the Board of Dental Examiners.

In New York, AB 98/S 5727 allows dental hygienists to perform block anesthesia if the following conditions are satisfied: the hygienist possesses a local anesthesia/nitrous oxide analgesia certificate, as well as a dental hygiene block anesthesia certificate; The services must be performed under personal/direct supervision.

In Utah, HB 372 allows a dental hygienist under general supervision to administer local anesthesia, expose dental radiography; and make impressions or intraoral scans of teeth or jaws as authorized by a supervising dentist.

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#### CORONAL POLISHING

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41 states allow dental assistants (of varying levels and qualifications) to perform coronal polishing.

18 states have requirements specific to coronal polishing: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

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#### EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT (EFDA)

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Having been around for two decades, the Expanded Function Dental Assistant, can in some states perform, with additional training, more procedures than the standard scope of a noncertified assistant such as scanning, final impression, prosthesis adjustment, placing cord, placing restorations and cementing crowns,

Two states, Wisconsin and Maryland, saw new laws allowing EFDA's to practice signed in the 2021-22 session, bringing the total number of states with these laws to 32.

Some states have a variation of an EFDA with additional certification to be a Restorative Dental Assistant or a Certified Orthodontic Assistant, including California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and North Dakota.

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Oregon adopted rules to allow an EFDA to obtain a local anesthesia functions certificate and thus to be allowed to administer local anesthesia under indirect supervision.

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#### ORAL PREVENTIVE ASSISTANT (OPA)

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An Oral Preventive Assistant is a type of Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) who has taken the required education and completed training to provide patients with additional preventive services. OPAs may provide care to patients classified as healthy or with gingivitis. Services include the removal of supragingival calculus, coronal polishing, providing oral hygiene instructions, and applying fluoride.

In 2023, the Missouri Dental Association (MDA) began working with the Missouri Dental Board on rules for a short-term pilot program to evaluate the safety of this type of EFDA. The MDA worked to identify the specific needs of patients in Missouri and designed a unique position to positively impact the oral health of underserved populations. Didactic training of OPA pilot participants commenced in early 2024, with the clinical phase beginning in December 2024 after the promulgation of related rules. Data collection on the program will begin in June 2025.

Arizona enacted SB 1124 in March 2025 to allow a pathway for a dental assistant to become an Oral Preventive Assistant, and SB 1680 is currently pending in Washington state.

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#### COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR (CDHC)

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The Community Dental Health Coordinator works as a bridge between underserved communities in need of care and clinics or practices able to provide that care. The CDHC also works directly with the patient to ensure their treatment plan is followed, and that the patient has access to all community resources available to them, even if those are outside of dentistry, like HPV vaccination.

There are currently 21 CDHC programs across the country that offer the CDHC curriculum through continuing education programs or as part of existing programs in dental hygiene and dental assisting.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

To date, the program has seen approximately 730 graduates. Santa Fe Community College in New Mexico recently announced the start of their program. In an incredibly exciting development, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has signed an agreement to offer CDHC training throughout the entire system, vastly increasing the number of available sites at which CDHC's can continue their valuable work.

## Model Initiatives by State

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### CREATE A DENTAL EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM (ALABAMA, MAINE)

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Alabama's Dental Service Program is administered by its Board of Dental Scholarship Awards, and issues need- and merit-based loans up to the price of in-state tuition and fees at its state dentistry school to dental students. Each applicant must agree to work full-time in a clinical practice as a licensed dentist in an area of critical need for a specified number of months and agree to provide care to a certain number of indigent patients or patients covered under Medicaid. Loans can be repaid in cash or through practice in an approved area. The program will issue a number of loans up to 20% of the state dentistry school's student population. Students can receive loans for up to four years.

In Maine, HP 1262/LD 1891 would establish the Extreme Shortage Area Dental Education Loan Program to provide loans and loan repayment agreements to eligible dental students and individuals who are eligible for licensure as a doctor of dental medicine or as a dental hygienist, dental therapist, expanded function dental assistant or dental assistant who agrees to serve an extreme shortage area in the State. The legislation also establishes the Dentists for Maine's Future Scholarship Program to provide a tuition subsidy of 50% of the cost of attendance, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per student annually, for eligible students who enter dental school programs in Maine for the purpose of increasing the number of dentists who practice in extreme shortage areas. The bill also updates the dental care access tax credit to include eligible dental hygienists and changes the date that the tax credit is repealed to December 31, 2032.

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### CREATE A RURAL PRACTICE-FOCUSED DENTAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (ALABAMA, MARYLAND, MISSISSIPPI, WISCONSIN)

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In 2023, The University of Alabama welcomed the inaugural class of its Rural Dental Scholars program. Open to Alabamans from rural areas, the postgraduate program includes a year of study and a master's degree in rural community health at University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, as well as early admission to the UAB School of Dentistry.

In 2024, the Maryland Department of Health launched the Pathways to a Bright Future scholarship, awarded to those interested in dentistry who plan to work in one of a few designated underserved areas. Funding for this initiative comes from a four-year, \$1.6 million HRSA grant.

Mississippi's state legislature implemented the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program (MRDSP)



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

in 2013. The program provides \$35,000 in scholarships annually for no more than four years provided the students fulfill an obligation, upon completion of their education, to practice in rural Mississippi areas for a period of at least the same number of years as they received scholarships. A 2023 audit of the program found that every dentist who was currently practicing during the obligation period following their education under the program was fulfilling that obligation by practicing in a designated rural area. Mississippi increased funding for the scholarship program once more in 2023, and the funding has held steady for 2024.

In Wisconsin, SB 706 enacted in 2024 established a Rural Scholarship at Marquette University School of Dentistry. The program provides up to \$30,000 in scholarship funds annually to up to 15 students at a time. After graduation, recipients agree to work in a Dental Health Provider Shortage Area for 18 months for each year of scholarship, or are obliged to return the funds.

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### DENTAL HYGIENE CHAIRSIDE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM (PILOT STATES: AZ, AR, ID, IN, IA, MI AND MN)

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The American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Delta Dental Foundation of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana (DDF) announced the formation of "Hygienist Inspired," a chairside recruitment program designed to increase diversity and address workforce shortages in the dental hygiene profession and improve access to oral health care. The program was launched in March, 2025 in nine pilot states: Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, with plans for nationwide expansion over the next two years. The Foundations of Delta Dental in each pilot state are funding program ambassadors to lead recruiting in their states, following a successful ambassador training event, led in partnership by representatives from ADHA and the DDF. The Hygienist Inspired Ambassadors (three from each state) will lead outreach efforts in their respective states, conducting both chairside recruitment in their operatories and participating in community events to raise awareness about careers in dental hygiene.

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### FOREIGN-TRAINED DENTISTS (CALIFORNIA, MINNESOTA AND NEW YORK)

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In California, AB 1307, which is currently pending, which would create a new Licensed Dentists from Mexico Pilot Program, repealing existing provisions in California statute. Under the new program, the Board will be required to issue a 3-year nonrenewable license to practice dentistry to an applicant that meets specified criteria and require participants in the program to comply with specified requirements. The bill would authorize participants to be employed only by federally qualified health centers that meet specified conditions, and would impose requirements on those centers. The legislation would require an evaluation of the program to begin one year after the program has commenced and would prescribe the information to be included in that evaluation. The bill would require the costs for the program to be fully paid for by funds provided by philanthropic foundations.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

Minnesota is currently the only state that may grant an internationally-educated practitioner a general dentist license without further study. A person licensed under this subdivision must practice for three consecutive years in Minnesota pursuant to a written agreement, approved by the board, between the licensee and a Minnesota-licensed dentist. At the conclusion of the three-year period, the board may grant an unlimited license without further restrictions if all supervising dentists who had entered into written agreements with the licensee during any part of the three-year period recommend unlimited licensure, and if no corrective action or disciplinary action has been taken by the board against the licensee.

In New York, AB 3244, if enacted, would allow an internationally-educated dentist who has been licensed outside of the U.S. for at least 5 of the last 7 years to participate as a general practice dental preceptee in a preceptorship program under the supervision of a licensed dentist practicing in a federally-qualified health care facility or similar facility that primarily serves an underserved population. A dentist, upon satisfactory completion of five years of such practice, may apply for licensure as a dentist in New York.

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### FOREIGN-TRAINED DENTISTS AS HYGIENISTS (CONNECTICUT, FLORIDA, MASSACHUSETTS, MINNESOTA)

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In Connecticut, HB 6562 and HB 6575 are currently pending, that would allow a dentist has been lawfully practicing for not less than five years in a foreign country or province of a foreign country to apply for licensure as a hygienist. HB 6562 would allow an internationally-trained dentists to be licensed in Connecticut, provided such dentist (1) possesses a degree of competency and has completed necessary examinations in subjects considered essential for a dental hygienist, as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health, and (2) passes written and practical examinations pursuant to state statute. HB 6575 would allow the same, provided that the dentist has practiced for at least five years in another country, and can provide documentation to that effect. The dentist must also meet any competency requirements determined by the Commissioner of Public Health.

For a dental hygiene license in Florida, a graduate of an unaccredited dental college or school, who has completed a minimum of 4 years of postsecondary dental education and received a dental school diploma which is comparable to a D.D.S. or D.M.D. can apply if they have completed the following examinations: the National Board Dental Examination or the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination; the ADEX Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination taken on or after June 1, 2010) and the Florida Laws and Rules Examination.

Massachusetts has enacted H4842 which allows internationally-trained dentists to perform dental hygiene in Massachusetts, provided they have been in practice for at least five years and can produce proof of clinical competency equivalent to what is required in Massachusetts. Legislation enacted in Virginia (SB1475) will mandate the Board of Dentistry to convene a working group to study the matter.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

In Minnesota, HF 1752/SF 1623 would allow for a dentist who completed a minimum of four years of postsecondary dental education and received a diploma comparable to a DDS or DMD in another country, to apply for licensure as a dental hygienist.

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### INCENTIVES TO PRACTICE IN CONNECTICUT, MAINE, AND NEW JERSEY

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Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont has put forward legislation to remove license application and renewal fees for certain occupations, including dental hygienists. SB 1246, which is currently pending, would eliminate occupational licensing fees, the state looks to encourage workers to join industries with in-demand jobs, such as dentistry. The fee range for dental hygienist licenses is \$105 to \$150, with nearly 4,000 payers in the state. Professions included in the proposal will still have to obtain and renew licenses, but there will be no fee.

Maine is considering a variety of incentives that would attract dentists to practice in the state. The initiatives under proposal include offering five years of tax incentives to dentists who practice in certain parts of the state, as well as malpractice insurance incentives tied to acceptance of Medicaid payments. As well, the Maine Dental Association is hoping to attract retired dentists to relocate and practice in the state, and is working with the Housing Authority to incentivize such moves.

In New Jersey, AB 2822, which is currently pending, would provide bonuses for certain essential healthcare workers. The bonuses are provided to individuals who receive an annualized base salary of \$100,000 or less, who provide hands-on health or care services to individuals, or in-person support services to those providers, without regard to whether the person works full-time, part-time, on a salaried, hourly, or temporary basis, or as an independent contractor. This legislation provides for a bonus not to exceed \$3,000 for Healthcare employees including dental hygienists, dental assistants who received an annualized base salary of \$100,000 or less, from an employer who is enrolled in Medicaid.

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### S.M.I.L.E. HEALTHCARE PATHWAY PROGRAM (WASHINGTON DC AND TENNESSEE)

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The S.M.I.L.E. (Student Mentoring with Immersive Learning and Enrichment) Healthcare Pathway Program is a partnership between Henry Schein, Inc., the National Dental Association, and other professional associations to help mentor future healthcare professionals, enhance health literacy, expand diversity in the healthcare workforce and ultimately improve health and overall outcomes in underserved communities nationwide. This summer program introduces students to careers in oral health, including: dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, or dental office administrators. The 2025 S.M.I.L.E. Healthcare Pathway Program will take place in two locations: Howard University in Washington, DC from June 28 – July 3, 2025 and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN from July 20-25, 2025.





## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

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#### FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE AT JACKSONVILLE: DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM (FLORIDA)

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Existing full-time 1230 clock hour to be replaced by two alternative programs:

- CWE (Continuing Workforce Education) Dental Assisting Program - a "hybrid" program that combines online and hands-on instruction, offers rapid entry into the profession for those students who need flexibility in scheduling to accommodate work or family obligations; not CODA-accredited
- ATD (Applied Technology Diploma) Dental Assisting Program - this for-credit program is designed for those students who wish to earn a degree and anticipate continuing their education; option for Associate's degree and facilitated entry into the Dental Hygiene Program, will be CODA-accredited.

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#### SECURE LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE FULL DENTAL TEAM (FLORIDA, MAINE)

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Florida's SB 7016 extended Florida's Dental Student Loan Repayment Program to hygienists.

In Maine, LD 1256 expanded the Maine Dental Education Loan Program to cover hygienists, therapists, EFDA's and assistants.

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#### INCREASE TUITION WAIVERS (MARYLAND)

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In April 2023, the Maryland Legislature passed HB 290, an Oral Health Task Force Bill that included improvements to the existing Maryland Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program. The tuition waiver increased from \$23,740/year for three years up to \$50,000/year for three years. The law also made qualifying dental hygienists eligible for \$10,000/year for two years.

SB 456/HB 265, enacted in 2025, will alter the eligibility criteria for Higher Education Loan Assistance Grants under the Maryland Dent-Care Program to include part-time employment.

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#### DISCOVERY DENTISTRY CAMP AND SYPOSIUM FOR 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE (MARYLAND)

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## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

University of Maryland School of Dentistry's *Planet Smilez* program hosts a week-long summer camp of immersive experiences for middle and high school students that emphasize oral and systemic health education and encourage pursuit of dental careers, including mentorship by current dental students. camp participants engaging in practical exercises designed to emulate real-world dental practices. From suturing to understanding how X-rays work, students gain hands-on experience that brings dental science to life. The program also offers a one-day pre-dental symposium that introduces the key components of the different dental professions.

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#### GRANTS TO EDUCATION (MINNESOTA)

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Minnesota has three bills pending (HB 1110, HB 1111 and SB 1325) that would make CODA-accredited dental assisting and dental hygiene programs eligible for grant programs. Eligible projects for the funding include: expanding or improving existing clinic physical infrastructure; creating and building new clinic physical infrastructure; improving classroom physical structure; creating student scholarships and improving faculty and staff salaries.

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#### DENTAL HYGIENE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (MONTANA, UTAH)

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To help dentists build a dental assistant workforce through registered apprenticeships, Charter Apprentices administers an apprenticeship program that combine classroom education with on-the-job experiential learning. The program is competency-based (unlike the traditional time-based model) and utilizes national standards to ensure consistent training and competency from state to state and office to office.

Utilizing the program gives employers access to funding resources that offset the apprentices' wages, pay for the classroom learning and provide child-care and transportation support. Participants are paid using progressive wage scale based on competencies attained. An extended probationary period for apprenticeships serves to better evaluate technical and behavioral competencies and fit.

The apprenticeship program has received state approval in Montana and Utah. The state approval includes grant and workforce funding, including training wage offsets.

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#### EXPANDING DENTAL TRAINING PROGRAMS ALONGSIDE OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS (NEW JERSEY)

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In fall 2023, County College of Morris (CCM) announced the construction of a new facility that will function as the college's Center for Health Professions. The college will offer new programs in dental hygiene, dental assisting, surgical technology, diagnostic medical sonography and medical assistance and expanded programs in nursing, radiography, respiratory therapy, paramedic science and drug counseling.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

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#### INTERSTATE DENTAL EDUCATION COLLABORATION BRINGING DENTISTS TO NEW MEXICO AND VERMONT

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In September, 2024, Touro University broke ground on a clinical branch of Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM) in New Mexico. Students at Touro Dental Health New Mexico (TDHM) spend their first two years in the classroom studying basic biological sciences, and the last two years seeing patients in the clinics. Going forward, 100 students from each TCDM class of 200 will do the classroom portion of their training on TCDM's New York campus and spend their final two years treating patients from the Albuquerque community in the new clinical facility.

In April, 2025, TCDM announced that the Class of 2027 will be the first cohort of 100 students who will spend their final two years at Touro's newly opened state-of-the-art clinical campus in Albuquerque, New Mexico, located at the Lovelace Biomedical Research Institute. Under the supervision of expert faculty, these TCDM students will provide reduced-cost dental care to members of the Westchester and Albuquerque communities and surrounding counties.

In September, 2024, the Vermont State Dental Society (VSDS), University of Detroit Mercy (UDM), Sen. Bernie Sanders and Sen. Peter Welch announced a partnership to bring an innovative Dental Oral Health Education Center to Vermont in fall 2027. This new dental clinic and education program will bring UDM students to Vermont to complete their final years of training – strengthening the dental care provider pipeline and expanding access to much-needed care across the state.

Beginning in the fall of 2025, the partnership between VSDS and UDM will include two years of foundational and preclinical education at the UDM School of Dentistry Campus in Detroit, followed by two years of clinical and didactic education at a new dental clinic based in Colchester. The University of Detroit Mercy-Vermont dental program will offer DDS dental education in the state of Vermont, accredited by the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA).

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#### ADVANCE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO PROMOTE HEALTH CARE CAREERS IN K-12 EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS, AND CREATE A PROGRAM TO ATTRACT STUDENTS TO THE STATE TO FINISH TRAINING (VERMONT)

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Leverage AHEC, VSAC, Vermont After School, Vermont Career and Technical Education Centers and Vocational Rehab programs to clearly document and develop a plan to actively promote health care careers in K-12 educational settings. Ensure adequate funding for AHEC and other entities conducting middle and high school health careers outreach to develop health career pipelines are inclusive of dental careers including dentist, dental hygienist, dental therapy, and dental assisting. ("Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan", Vermont Agency of Human Services, October 2021.)

Vermont approved \$100,000 in 2023 for its Dental Hygienist Forgivable Loan Program. Hygienists are eligible to apply for loan forgiveness if they practice in Vermont for the same number of years for which they received forgiveness and if they maintain enrollment at an eligible program.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

Vermont's \$3.8 million appropriation for Critical Occupations Scholarships applies to dental hygienists, and provides funding for retraining and relocation incentives.

Additionally, Vermont is pursuing a program to attract dental students to the state to finish their training. Afterward, students are encouraged to stay and work in federally qualified health centers.

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#### DENTAL ASSISTANT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (WASHINGTON, IDAHO)

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The dental assistant apprenticeship program is a one-year (2,000 hour) on-the-job training program facilitated by CHAS Health to train individuals to work as Registered Dental Assistants in the state of Washington and Idaho. Apprentices will be employed with CHAS Health full-time while simultaneously completing related coursework, which includes homework assignments and mandatory lab days. Following successful completion of the program, the dental assistant will be transitioned into a regular, full-time position. Throughout this program, the apprentice will be working hands-on in the dental clinic alongside a coach and team to practice clinical skills. The coach will support and guide the apprentice and ensure the mastery of each skill. In addition to working clinically, there will be 8 lab days, where the instructor will follow an agenda for lectures, reviewing practical skills, help with technique, and answer questions. Homework and lab obligations are unpaid.

The Dental Assistant Training Program is recognized by the state of Washington as a registered apprenticeship. This provides students with the assurance that they will receive a quality education that has met the qualifications set by the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries for training and instruction. Our program is governed by an Apprenticeship Committee of 50% employer and 50% journey-level dental assistant representatives. The curriculum is approved by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

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#### DENTAL ASSISTING TRAINING IN HIGH SCHOOL (WASHINGTON STATE)

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Across Washington, eight skill centers have dental assisting training programs. Skill centers are regional secondary schools that serve high school students from multiple school districts. They provide instruction in preparatory programs that are either too expensive or too specialized for school districts to operate individually. The dental assisting programs are for juniors and seniors and are typically one school year long (9 months). Since the students are in high school the programs are free, with fees for supplies and equipment.

To standardize education and training, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction adopted a dental assisting statewide framework in May 2022. The framework prepares students with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the dental health care profession within the application of dental care. Students are eligible to earn 1.0 lab science credit that counts for graduation requirements such as biology, chemistry, and other lab sciences. The framework is 540 hours long and requires students complete 55 hours of clinical practicum or clinical simulation.



## Emerging and Current Models to Address Dental Team Workforce

### Activities by State

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#### “INTRODUCTION TO DENTISTRY” PILOT PROGRAM (WASHINGTON STATE)

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Delta Dental of Washington (DDWA) completed an “Introduction to Dentistry” pilot program at TAF Saghale. TAF is a problem-based school in Federal Way for 6th-12th graders. The pilot program was 4 weeks long and students met one hour per week. The pilot cohort consisted of 8-12 students from a variety of grades. Students learned about different dental professions, dental basics, and local education programs. The program aims to educate students about dental careers early on. DDWA would like to expand this program throughout Washington. Funding for the pilot program came from DDWA and WSDA dentists donated dental supplies.