



# 10 Steps to Full Authorization of a Community Dental Health Coordinator in your State

## Step 1

Familiarize yourself with the CDHC program by reviewing [materials available on ADA.org](https://www.ada.org) and determine what the current dental practice act allows in your state.

## Step 2

Inform your state dental society of your interest in the full state authorization of CDHCs in your state and engage the society in your efforts.

## Step 3

As appropriate, work to educate the dental board, other regulatory agencies, the legislature, educational institutions and potential allies. Determine what payment streams potentially exist in your state and incorporate required changes in any attempted enactment. Highlight how the primary function of the CDHC is to overcome barriers that prevent people from accessing appropriate dental care through patient navigation, community based education and prevention. The goal is to connect people to the existing delivery system and provide care **now** in a cost-effective and culturally competent manner.

## Step 4

If the practice act does not recognize a CDHC, introduce legislation or regulatory modification, as appropriate, to authorize this new dental team member.

## Step 5

Perform a measured assessment of the likelihood of passage, the potential stumbling blocks and opposition, and the political capital that will need to be expended. If the cost is too high, a constituent may consider eliminating the 2 elective modules (temporization and scaling).

## Step 6

Educate and organize your membership to both fully understand what a CDHC is — and isn't — and organize them to support the initiative with grassroots activity. Identify and foster those same efforts among other groups who may support your effort.



## Step 7

Identify potential educational institutions (target those with existing dental hygiene and/or dental assisting programs) that may have an interest in hosting a CDHC program.

## Step 8

Contact ADA staff member **Dr. Luciana Sweis** and connect with appropriate ADA agencies to begin preliminary discussions on how to obtain more relevant information (curriculum, promotional materials, evaluation outcome results, assistance with lobbying strategies, etc ... ).

## Step 9

Work with the Primary Care Association and FQHCs which can be compelling advocates for the CDHC and a location for initial deployment, so that outreach is targeted to those currently most in need.

## Step 10

Consider a CDHC short term sabbatical in your state to demonstrate the knowledge and skills gained as a result of the CDHC training. Refer to the document titled [10 Steps to Pilot a CDHC Sabbatical in Your State](#) found on ADA.org.

## Questions? Contact us!

### American Dental Association

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For more information about the American Dental Association's *Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference* campaign, visit [ADA.org/action](https://ada.org/action).