



Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

**ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
&  
DELTA DENTAL OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION  
ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE**



**Funding Opportunity  
Guidelines**

**COVID-19 Utilization: Decreasing Oral Health Disparities**

Release Date: June 28, 2021

Proposals Due: August 2, 2021

## ABOUT ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

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The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) is a statewide private foundation that is focused on serving all children in the State of Illinois. ILCHF concentrates its funding primarily in the areas of children's oral health and mental health. The vision of the foundation is that every child in Illinois grows up healthy.

### The Foundation's History

ILCHF was created in December 2002 through an action of then Attorney General Jim Ryan and an Illinois insurance carrier. This action and a settlement of approximately \$125 million established the only private foundation focused solely on the health needs of children in Illinois.

Since the inception of the Foundation, ILCHF invested in children's oral health programs. In 2007, The Foundation kick-offed its first major children's focus area, the Children's Oral Health Initiative which resulted in investing in targeted efforts designed to increase the access children have to oral health services. Through input from stakeholders around the state and nationally, the Foundation developed three overarching strategies:

- Building and Strengthening the Capacity of the Oral Health Safety Net System
- Increasing the Oral Health Workforce/Workforce Development
- Oral Health Public Education/Awareness

Since 2004, the first year of grant making, more than \$37 million has been committed to efforts related to building the capacity of the safety net system, increasing the number of oral health professionals caring for underserved children, and creating a greater awareness of the role oral health plays in the overall health of a child.

In 2010, ILCHF first funded CMHI 1.0 (Children's Mental Health Initiative), it's initial efforts at developing children's mental health systems of care in four communities in Illinois. Since that time, ILCHF has specifically focused on the development of children's mental health systems of care that bring together all of the child serving systems in a community to address the needs of children and families, utilizing the Child and Adolescent Service System Principles (CASSP) model. In 2018 ILCHF funded five communities across the state to develop local systems of care through CMHI 2.0, and in 2020 an additional five communities have been funded in CMHI 3.0. In addition to the larger system of care projects, ILCHF funds children's mental health projects that brings systems together, and that offer novel and evidence-based means of supporting child and family mental health.

From the Foundation's inception through 2020, a total of more than \$111 million in grants have been awarded in approximately 640 grants.

For additional information about ILCHF, please see [www.ilchf.org](http://www.ilchf.org).



## **ABOUT DENTAL OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION**

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The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois, a not-for-profit dental service corporation. The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the 501(c)3 charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois.

### **The Foundation's Mission**

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's mission is to improve the overall health and well-being of people in Illinois through education and access to quality healthcare.

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation furthers its mission to improve the overall health and well-being of Illinois residents, particularly children, through education and access to quality healthcare. The Foundation brings oral health education and assistance to Illinois children and families in a variety of ways, including our Land of Smiles oral health education program featuring interactive superheroes, that travels to elementary schools across the states providing oral health tips and Dentist by 1, which focuses on the importance of early dental visits and how to provide dental care for young children.

Each of their programs reaches students, families, children, dental and health professionals and communities in Illinois. The Foundation's programs focus on our three core themes - oral health education and awareness, access to oral health care and education for oral health professionals.

For additional information about DDILF, please see [www.deltadentalil.com](http://www.deltadentalil.com)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

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Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF) seek to invest available funding in innovative community-based strategies designed to increase children's utilization of quality, comprehensive oral health services in communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and poverty. Specifically, funding can be requested for strategies designed to increase utilization of these services in high-risk and underserved communities, with a focus on communities of color and impoverished communities across the State. Applicants will demonstrate how community-led interventions will improve the oral health outcomes for children in their respective communities.

Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put some ethnic and racial groups along with rural residents at increased risk of suffering from the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The challenges brought forward, as a result of the Pandemic exacerbated the existing disparities associated with the physical, social and cultural environments preventing children from accessing quality, comprehensive oral health services. According to the Healthy Smiles Healthy Growth 2018-2019 report, "Dental caries concentrate in population groups such as among those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, are of racial or ethnic minority populations and are geographically isolated."

Funded projects will be able to demonstrate innovative, community-informed strategies for addressing and overcoming barriers to the utilization of comprehensive oral health services with the goal of improving oral health outcomes for children in Illinois. Preference will be given to organizations that empower communities to address these challenges. Projects will demonstrate community-driven and informed partnerships in the proposed delivery of services. Specifically, projects will demonstrate how activities will be implemented with regard to addressing barriers and health disparities in communities that bear more than their share of the burden of COVID-19 infection and poverty.

ILCHF and DDILF are each contributing \$2 million to the funding of this \$4 million initiative. The maximum amount to be awarded per grantee is up to \$100,000 per year over two years for a maximum grant award of \$200,000. Eligible funding strategies should address one or more of the following influencing community disparities:

- Physical environment
  - Access to dental services
- Social Environment
  - School curricula
  - Community education
  - Social stigma
  - Family and school influences on oral health practice
- Cultural environment
  - Importance of oral health
  - Beliefs about oral health

The timeline for funding under this opportunity is that the project must be completed within a period of 24 months from the start of the grant period.

**Project elements eligible for funding**

ILCHF/DDILF grant funds may be used to expand or implement evidence based, evidence informed or or innovative strategies and partnerships designed to address oral health disparities and increase utilization within the parameters listed above. Funds may be requested for, but not limited to, salaries and benefits, consultant fees, data collection & analysis, meetings, supplies, education and training, marketing, and communication materials as they directly relate to the children's oral health program. Eligible expenses may include capital expenditures that are deemed essential to continue to ensure safety for children, families, and providers.

**This opportunity does not fund:**

- Intermediary funding agencies
- Grants to/for specific individuals
- Endowments
- Capital campaigns for medical facilities
- General medical research
- Attempts to influence legislation, as prohibited by section 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code for private foundations

**Grant Size/Funding Period:**

Total funds available for this opportunity is \$4 million with a maximum of \$200,000 over two years for individual grants. Grants will be announced in November. The first Grant payment will be distributed following the signing of the Grant Agreement.

**TIMELINE**

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RFP Released	June 28, 2021
Applications Due	August 2, 2021
Grant Funding Released	November – December 2021
Grant Period Begins	January 1, 2022
Grant Period Ends	December 31, 2023

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

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Your organization is eligible for ILCHF funding if it is a 501(c)(3) organization determined to be a public charity under section 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a governmental entity described in Code section 170(c)(1) or 511(a)(2)(B).

Examples of eligible organizations include community-based nonprofits, community health centers, youth serving organizations, federally qualified health centers (FQHC), FQHC look-alikes, school-based health centers, free clinics, public health departments, hospitals, and other community health centers.

## **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

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ILCHF and DDILF will use the following criteria for selecting proposals for funding:

- The oral health strategy must be implemented in communities with documented, long-standing systemic health and social inequities with a focus on those at increased risk of suffering from the negative impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The oral health strategy should be in evidence based, evidence informed, innovative and/or new to the applicant and able to demonstrate achievement of stated outcome goals.
- The oral health strategy must provide a link to the provision of comprehensive oral health services to children in its community.
- The oral health strategy will ideally be implemented within the context of a dental home or linkage to a dental home. \*
- The oral health program should emphasize the comprehensive coordination of oral health care to underserved children.
- The oral health program must demonstrate effective outreach to underserved populations of children.

Applicants will be notified in November 2021 regarding the response to their application.

\*The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry defines dental home as the ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way. Establishment of a dental home begins no later than 12 months of age and includes referral to dental specialists when appropriate.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

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### Stage 1: Submitting a Full Application

#### Proposal Submission Guidelines.

*Proposals will be accepted through the ILCHF Electronic submission process only. The electronic application will be available by June 28, 2021.*

*Complete responses to this Request for Proposals must be submitted **no later than Monday, August 2, 2021**. Faxed or e-mailed submissions will not be accepted.*

A proposal will not be reviewed unless it is complete and includes the following:

- I. **Title Page.**
  - a. Project title.
  - b. The name and contact information for the lead organization and the specific person at the organization to correspond with.
  - c. A 250 (maximum) word abstract summarizing how proposed funding will address need for children's oral health program as a result of the Pandemic and how funding will be used.
  
- II. **Community Definition.** Please describe the geographic area and county in which children we be targeted by the proposed oral health strategy. Please include data related to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  
- III. **Statement of Need and Proposed Strategies and Related Activities.**
  - a. Describe the specific challenges your organization or community face as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - b. Describe the need in the defined geographic area for children's oral health services, including cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths by COVID-19 by population as well as poverty rate by population.  
Describe in detail the systemic health and social inequities that your population of children and their families experience.
  - c. Describe how requested grant funds be used to address the need and the challenges referenced above. Please be specific to use of requested grant funds.
  - d. Please indicate the number and demographics of children that your project proposes to serve after 24 months of grant funding.
  - e. Describe proposed staffing model if applicable.
  - f. Describe your plans for sustainability and how after 24 months of funding the project will continue to serve children.
  
- IV. **Budget & Narrative**

Complete the Implementation Grant Budget Template include as Attachment A and submit a budget narrative explaining use of funds.
  
- V. **ATTACHMENTS.**

*Only the information that is identified in each of the sections below may be provided as attachments. **None of the information required in Sections I-VIII may be included or***

*expanded upon separately as an attachment.*

**Organization Documentation.** Please provide the following:

- a. Budget Template
- b. Agency Board of Directors
- c. IRS Letter of Exemption
- d. Most recent Form 990
- e. Most recent AG-IL 990
- f. Most recent audited financial statements
- g. Officers Certification

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/QUESTIONS**

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Questions should be directed to

Bob Egan, Senior Program Officer  
[bobegan@ilchf.org](mailto:bobegan@ilchf.org)

Lora Vitek, Executive Director  
[lvitek@deltadentalil.com](mailto:lvitek@deltadentalil.com)

Other staff at the Foundation who may be contacted:

Nedrae Hunt, Foundation Administrative Manager  
[nedranaehunt@ilchf.org](mailto:nedranaehunt@ilchf.org)



## **COVID-19 Utilization: Decreasing Oral Health Disparities Building Initiative Budget Template and Instructions**

### **Budget Template Instructions**

- i. Do not add any new lines or columns to the Budget Template. Doing so will cause the formulas to malfunction.
- ii. The budget template has three numbered functional categories (i.e. Program Staff) If there are insufficient lines under Program Staff, use "Other Project Staff – Type 5" as a catch-all and detail its components in the Budget Narrative.

### **APPENDIX B – Budget Narrative Information**

The purpose of the Budget Narrative section of the RFP is to help ILCHF and DDILF better understand the scope and nature of your proposed request.

- Provide an explanation of both the funding requested from ILCHF and DDILF.
- The Project Budget has three functional categories: Program Staff, Other Direct Costs, Purchased Services.

#### **1. PROGRAM STAFF**

The amount requested for staffing.

#### **2. OTHER DIRECT COSTS**

The amount requested for other direct costs. See example below. Any item which does fit within a listed category should be described in "Other Expenses".

- a. Communications/Marketing
- b. Travel Expenses
- c. Meeting Expenses
- d. Survey/Data Collection
- e. Equipment
- f. Construction/Remodeling
- g. Project Space
- h. Other Expenses

#### **3. PURCHASED SERVICES**

The amount requested for purchased services. See example below. Any item which does fit within a listed category should be described in "Other".

- a. Consultants
- b. Contracted Professionals
- c. Other