

VALUES AND BELIEFS

- ❖ **Oral Health for Everyone**

Oral health is essential to health. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve optimal oral health.
- ❖ **State and Territorial Oral Health Programs**

State and territorial oral health programs do the challenging work of assuring the oral health of populations, especially those who experience the greatest disparities. We believe they should have the resources required to be effective in their work.
- ❖ **Prevention**

Almost all oral disease is preventable. We believe that there should be broad awareness of and support for prevention and that oral health problems should be addressed as early as possible to reduce their severity and related health issues.
- ❖ **Diversity**

We value the individuality, culture, professional backgrounds, and competencies of our members and the diversity of the populations who they serve. Our combined perspectives can strengthen the ability to create a strong and effective governmental oral health presence in every state and territory.
- ❖ **Member Contribution**

We value and depend upon the involvement of our members, both in the work of our organization and in national efforts to promote optimal oral health.
- ❖ **Competency**

We value a knowledgeable and skilled public oral health workforce. We believe that achieving a highly competent workforce requires formal education, continuous learning, mentoring, and leadership development, as well as policies, programs, and resources that promote and support increased competency.
- ❖ **Science-Based Learning**

We value lessons learned from the application of scientific principles. We believe the work we do should be grounded in data, research, and rigorous evaluation.
- ❖ **Collaborative Leadership**

We value those individuals, agencies, and organizations with whom we interact.. We believe that together we can successfully carry out our unique missions and achieve our shared vision.
- ❖ **Accountability**

We value being as good as our word and good stewards of our resources. We believe that our focus should always be on the results of our activities.
- ❖ **Integrity**

We value fairness and impartiality and seek to engender the respect of all with whom we interact.