



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

Practice Number: 51004
Submitted By: Oral Health Services, Vermont Department of Health
Submission Date: March 2002
Last Updated: March 2002

Vermont's Dental Access Grants

In Vermont, the average dental utilization is 45% for Medicaid children and 31% for Medicaid adults. The state wants to increase dental utilization for all counties and reach at least 59% for Medicaid children and 38% for Medicaid adults. In 1999, Vermont approved legislation that provides funding to private dental practices, schools, hospitals or any entity with a plan to increase access and capacity to deliver dental care to the growing population of Medicaid patients. This resulted in \$400 K funding for FY 1999, \$150K for FY 2000 and \$150 K for FY 2001 for the Dental Access Grants. Grant funds have also been budgeted for FY 2002. In three years, a total of 20 grantees received Dental Access Grants. The grants were awarded to 12 dentists, five health centers, four Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) students, three planning contracts for assessments and grant writing, two hospitals, two schools, one survey, and one childhood center for a dental clinic. Each Dental Access Grant ranged from \$20,000 to \$150,000. Most grants are approximately \$20,000. Grantees have used the funds to hire clinical staff, purchase dental equipment, contribute towards constructing buildings for dental care facilities, pay EFDA students' tuition, hire a person for grant writing, and to facilitate transporting children from their school to dental offices. From FY 1999-2002, the Dental Access Grants have supported the startup of six dental clinics (one is in the planning stage). An assessment was made to determine if the grants increased capacity for delivering dental services to Medicaid clients in the state by determining unduplicated Medicaid patients treated by all Medicaid providers and by the grantees for a 2-year period prior to the grants (FY 1998-1999) and after the grant period (FY 2000-2001). There was a net gain of 10% additional Medicaid patients seen by all Medicaid providers who are not grantees. The grantees increased the number of Medicaid patients receiving dental services in their practices by 73%. The Dental Access Grants have been successful in increasing access for Medicaid clients in Vermont.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

Steve Arthur, D.D.S., M.P.H., Director, Oral Health Services, Division of Health Improvement, Vermont Department of Health, 108 Cherry St., P.O. Box 70, Burlington VT 05402, Phone: 802-863-7497, Fax: 802-651-1654, Email: sarthur@vdh.state.vt.us