



Request for Application

Dental Sealant Grant Program Fiscal Year 2015

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Oral Health
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Application due date is close of business Friday, April 25, 2014

Program Information

A. Program Description

The **Dental Sealant Grant Program (DSGP)** assists Illinois schoolchildren who are most at risk for dental caries by granting funds, providing technical assistance, and training to public health departments and to other public not-for profit service providers to develop and to implement community-based oral health programs. Dental sealants are a plastic coating applied to the pit and fissure (grooved) surfaces of molars and premolars that "seal" out dental decay. When combined with appropriate diet, home care and use of fluorides, dental sealants can virtually eradicate dental decay - the most common childhood chronic disease. This school-based/linked program includes: preventive oral health care, oral health education and case management to dental homes. It has been the catalyst for expanding community-based oral health programs throughout the state. It is an essential component to a continuum of oral health care focusing on children and their families who are at the most risk for dental disease. The DSGP currently exists in 61 of the state's 102 counties and serves approximately 170,000 children. Annually, more than 360,000 dental sealants are placed. National goals and objectives regarding oral health have been established through Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020). To see the complete list of objectives, visit <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/LHI/oralHealth.aspx>

Program Goals: To increase the proportion of children who have received protective sealants on their molar teeth. (HP2020: OH-12)

Objectives: To increase the proportion of children who receive oral health care. (HP2020: OH-7)

To increase the number of low income children who receive preventive services (HP2020: OH-8)

To increase the number of communities with public health oral health programs. (HP2020: OH-9, OH-10)

To increase the proportion of very young children receiving fluoride varnish applications. (HP2020: OH-8)

To increase the proportion of children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades receiving required school dental examinations. (DSGP objective)

To increase the proportion of eligible children benefitting from All Kids oral health benefits. (DSGP objective)

To increase the number of dentists participating as providers in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services dental program. (DSGP objective)

The Dental Sealant Grant Program will provide grantees reimbursement for the application of dental sealants to selected permanent molars for a targeted number of eligible children in a jurisdiction with a preference to local health departments as service providers. The program is

designed to assist school personnel and families by assuring access to: oral health education, fluoride varnish, All Kids enrollment, and referral to a dental home. The program also helps families comply with the mandatory school dental examinations for children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades. The Division of Oral Health staff is available to provide technical assistance as you develop and implement a program in your community.

Eligible children are those school aged who are eligible to participate in the free or reduced school meals program. Based on tooth eruption pattern, first permanent molars typically erupt at age 6 and second permanent molars at age 12. The first and second permanent molars are most likely to develop cavities on the chewing surfaces in their deep pits and grooves. Placing dental sealants as soon as possible after the tooth erupts is best. Targeting children in the second and sixth grades is most effective and efficient. Providing sealants for targeted children is usually best in school settings.

Targeting families who are eligible for the school's free or reduced meals program is an excellent way to reach this high-risk population. Prioritizing schools with the highest rate of eligible children is best to reach high risk children if all schools cannot be served.

In 2005, the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) was amended by the 93rd Illinois General Assembly requiring schoolchildren in kindergarten, second and sixth grades to receive a dental examination prior to May 15 of the school year. Grantees should work with schools to meet the needs of targeted children who may not have access to the dental examinations outside of your oral health program.

B. Program Requirements

- ★ Demonstrate accessibility to the target population. (See attached School Eligibility Form and Targeting Forms.)
- ★ Agreements must be in place among participating parties (e.g., school administration for school-based program), sub-contracts, memoranda of agreement, letters of support from appropriate community agencies, schools and other organizations, parent permission slips and referral forms. **Schools must allow providers and IDPH personnel access to children for long-term retention checks for quality assurance.**
- ★ A written protocol outlining the specific process for referral and case management to the oral health care delivery system of children found to need treatment services.
- ★ A written protocol outlining All Kids outreach and enrollment.
- ★ A written protocol outlining oral health education for children, preferably classroom education prior to dental sealant program participation.
- ★ A written protocol demonstrating evidence of Medicaid/All Kids denial and procedures for billing Medicaid/All Kids patients.
- ★ A written protocol for quality assurance including:
 - ★ Technical acceptability of sealant application procedure, including use of blunt ended explorers during examinations if explorers are used (use of sharp explorers is not recommended in detection of occlusal decay), and use of only white sealant application materials approved by the American Dental Association, and;
 - ★ Long-term sealant retention rate collection. (See attached Retention Rates.) Assure retention rates of 90 percent or higher and provision of technical assistance for any provider falling below 90 percent. Permission slips must reflect provision for long-term retention checks by providers and IDPH Quality Assurance audits.

- ★ Documented conformity of proposed activities to professional standards, the Illinois Dental Practice Act and Rules Administering the Illinois Dental Practice Act (<http://www.dpr.state.il.us>), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on infection control and hand washing (<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/cdcrecommends>) and (www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/) and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services school-based provider requirements.
- ★ Guaranteed provision of **dental sealants** for all appropriate teeth based on CDC recommendations.
- ★ Assure experienced and competent staff.
- ★ Comply with Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services school-based oral health program requirements, including using best effort to update/maintain Google schedule calendar and to notify staff to changes weekly.
- ★ Comply with fiscal and program reporting requirements of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Submission of monthly reporting is to include sealant and Medicaid data.
- ★ Attend educational meetings as requested by the Division of Oral Health.

Agreements and written protocols must be made available upon request by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

For those grantees using SEALs program, include a brief evaluation and experience of utilizing the SEALs program.

Additional program resources can be found in the Program Resources attachment.

Operational Expenses

The Division of Oral Health has limited funds to assist with operational costs and will entertain applications requesting operation allocation funds. Requests should not exceed \$600 or 50% of patient/client care, whichever is less. Priority will be given to applications that address the following criteria:

- Program Development – To assist new grantees in communities not currently covered.
- Program Expansion – To assist existing grantees to expand to serve more children.
- Program Conversion – To assist grantees in restructuring existing programs (i.e., converting from subcontractor-based program to local-based program).
- Case Management – To assist grantees to ensure children/families are linked to dental homes.
- Build sustainable community-based oral health programs employing staff with oral health expertise and linking families to dental homes.

Equipment

The Dental Sealant Grant Program may provide grantees a one-time award (not to exceed \$7,500) for assisting in the purchase of portable dental equipment, specific for implementing a school-based program. The grantee must demonstrate they do not possess such equipment and

they do not have access to obtain such equipment on loan. The grantee will ensure such equipment will be purchased at the least expensive cost as established by the Division of Oral Health. In the event the grantee discontinues the program at any time, possession of the equipment will revert to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

C. Grant Application Documentation

Below is a description of the forms that were developed to assist with the grant application process. These forms are a required component of the application process.

1) School Eligibility Form

The School Eligibility form will assist in determining the number of targeted children. This form for the 2014-2015 school year must be submitted. The School Eligibility Form template is attached. Complete the form with: schools in the program jurisdiction, student populations, low income student populations, and percent of low income students. Information from the School Eligibility form will be used for completing the targeting forms. New grantees should contact the Division of Oral Health at <DPH.OralHealth@illinois.gov> for assistance in completing the School Eligibility form. Existing grantees should contact the Regional Oral Health Consultant (see attached Division of Oral Health Map) for assistance in updating the School Eligibility Form.

2) Targeting Forms

The attached Instructions for Targeting Forms and Targeting Forms will assist you to determine the amount of grant funding needed to provide care to the children in your community. Targeting forms are required even if you choose to use the services of a sub-contractor to provide care.

D. Payment Methodology

The method of compensation for the Dental Sealant Grant Program is fee-for-service. The Illinois Department of Public Health will pay the grantee the rate shown below for the following school-based services for children enrolled in free and reduced meals who are not enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids:

- 1) \$17.00 for each permanent molars sealed;
- 2) \$12.00 for each examination per child in the second and sixth grades; and
- 3) \$12.00 for each examination per child receiving dental sealants. The grant does not pay for dental exams on children who do not receive sealants except for children in the second and sixth grades.

A monthly program report (see attached FY2015 Billing Form), including fees to be reimbursed, must be provided to the Illinois Department of Public Health by the grantee no later than **30 days after the end of the month** using a reporting form supplied by the Division of Oral Health. **Monthly reports must be submitted even when there is no reimbursement requested.** Electronic copies of the billing forms may be obtained by contacting Stacey Ballweg at 217.785.1072 or <Stacey.Ballweg@illinois.gov>.

7

A one-time reimbursement for purchase of equipment (not to exceed \$7,500) may be authorized in the initial grant period. Equipment requests must be for portable units specifically designed

for implementing a school-based program. In the event the grantee discontinues the program, possession of the equipment will revert to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Program costs funding (operations allocation) will be reimbursed through submission of Certificate of Reimbursement forms.

The final reimbursement request must be received by the Illinois Department of Public Health no later than July 31, 2015.

E. Source of funds

Federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant

F. Contact

For additional information, contact Dr. David E. Miller, Chief, Division of Oral Health at 312.814.1278 or e-mail <DPH.OralHealth@illinois.gov>.

G. Application

Applications must be submitted through the Illinois Department of Public Health Electronic Grants Administration & Management System (EGrAMS). **Applications must be received by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on April 25, 2014.** Applications received after this date will not be reviewed.

H. Evaluation/Funding Criteria

Applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and funded based on program need as demonstrated on targeting forms, availability of funds and, if appropriate, histories of efficient use of dental sealant grant funds.