



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation
111 Shuman Boulevard
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Contact:
Liz Jans
The Meyocks Group
515-238-4304

lizjans@meyocks.com

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's annual community grants program kicks off *Eligible County organizations encouraged to apply by Sept. 3*

July 25, Naperville, Ill. – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, is kicking off its annual community grants program to provide funding for programs and organizations that improve the oral health of children within the state.

The Foundation will award grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations that provide oral health education and/or access to oral health resources to Illinois children. The Foundation will be distributing a total of \$100,000 in grants. Criteria and an online application are available at <http://deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation/what-we-do/community-grants>. Applications must be submitted by Sept. 3.

Illinois public charities that are classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and public or governmental entities, such as a public schools or health departments, are eligible and encouraged to apply.

“Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease in the United States, and in Illinois, more than half of third graders have experienced cavities,” said Craig Grannon, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Grants Committee. “The need is great, and the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is committed to improving the health of Illinois children. That’s why the Foundation, in partnership with Delta Dental of Illinois, is investing \$100,000 to further our commitment by supporting nonprofit organizations with programs focused on improving children’s oral health across the state.”

“The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors is delighted to again offer funding opportunities for children’s oral health programs in Illinois. This year, we are even more thrilled to have increased grant funding to support more programs and organizations,” said Frank Maggio, DDS, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors.

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Last year, the Foundation awarded nearly \$75,000 to 10 organizations, including Adams County Health Department, The Children's Place Association, Douglas County Health Department, Hancock County Health and Wellness Coalition, Howard Area Community Center, Oak Park and River Forest Infant Welfare Society – The Children's Clinic, Lake Land College, Little City Foundation, McHenry County Cooperative Dental Clinic and Riverbend Head Start and Family Services, Inc.

To learn more about the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's community grants program or to support the Foundation, please visit deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF), a 501c3 charitable organization, was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL), a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. DDILF is the charitable arm of DDIL and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of DDIL and DDILF have provided more than \$2 million to programs and organizations that provide oral health education and expand access to oral health care for Illinois residents.