



Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

## Wisdom Tooth Award Philosophy and Guidelines

Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the 501 (c)3 charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois. The Foundation's mission is to improve the oral health of residents of Illinois with a focus on children.

### **Wisdom Tooth Award Overview**

The \$100,000 annual Wisdom Tooth Award recognizes one Illinois nonprofit organization that exemplifies dedication to improving oral health in the state. The organization must have made a significant impact on improving oral health among children in the state with a proven effort that provides oral health education and/or access to oral health resources and care in Illinois. The Wisdom Tooth Award is designed to help expand or enhance an existing children's oral health program in Illinois. The recipient organization has up to two years to utilize the grant.

### **The Wisdom Tooth Award must be used for the following:**

- Program/project costs.
- Equipment and supplies related to the program/project.
- Salaries related to the program/project.

### **Applicants must:**

- Have physical presence in the state of Illinois and must benefit Illinois children.
- Be a public charity classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Be a public or governmental entity such as a public school or health department.
- **Use the funds within a two-year time period.**

### **Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation strongly considers applicants that:**

- Address identified needs among underserved segments of the population.
- Build awareness and educate Illinois children (up to age 21) on the connection between overall health and oral health.
- Are financially and operationally stable.
- Fulfill a unique or unduplicated need.
- Have a plan and process in place to measure and report outcomes.
- Are asking for a grant to support an established program with proven success. (Innovation can be part of the grant.)

**Restrictions/Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation will not provide grants to/for:**

- Prior Wisdom Tooth Award recipients are not eligible to reapply until five years after the receipt of their original Award.
- Organizations outside of Illinois that do not serve Illinois children.
- Projects not related to children's oral health.
- Development of printed oral health educational materials or the purchasing of oral health materials, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.
- Bricks and mortar.
- Individuals and individuals' treatment costs.
- Religious programs or activities.
- Endowments.
- Political organizations, groups or campaigns.
- Fundraising events.
- If there is a similar program or service for the same population the applicant serves in the same region, please provide rationale for your grant request.

**Applicants will be evaluated on five criteria:**

1. Alignment with the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation mission, vision and program areas.
2. Program stability, longevity and success.
3. Financial and operational stability.
4. Positive or improved outcomes.
5. Identification of established need.

**Timeline**

- Application Posted: March, 19, 2018
- Application Due: May 21, 2018 by 7:00 p.m. Central Time
- Wisdom Tooth Award Review Process: May - June 2018  
(Site visits may be scheduled during this time period.)
- Grants Committee Review and Final Determination with Foundation Board approval to happen by mid July.  
Save the Date: Fall 2018

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation will host a check presentation event for the Wisdom Tooth Award recipient at the organization's headquarters or other nearby location (TBD). The Wisdom Tooth Award recipient will also be invited to attend a reception at Delta Dental of Illinois and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation headquarters in Naperville in January 2019. Specific dates and times to be determined.