



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Seeking Applications for \$100,000 Wisdom Tooth Award

Organizations looking to impact children's oral health in Illinois encouraged to apply by May 20

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (March 18, 2016) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is accepting applications for its annual Wisdom Tooth Award. The \$100,000 grant will support a nonprofit organization that has improved the oral health of Illinois children and plans to expand or enhance an existing children's oral health program in Illinois. Eligible organizations must have a physical presence in Illinois, benefit children and have an established program that provides oral health education and/or access to oral health resources and care.

“The Wisdom Tooth Award allows us to fund programs that are also committed to advancing oral health care access and education in Illinois with a focus on children,” said Craig C. Grannon, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors. “Tooth decay as a result of poor dental health can affect so many aspects of a child's life, from physical pain to self-esteem. Through our efforts, we provide a way for children to receive the dental care they need as well as teach them good oral health habits to help set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy smiles.”

The recipient of the 2015 Wisdom Tooth Award was Central Counties Health Centers, Inc. (CCHC). Providing central Illinois children with access to dental care, CCHC is using the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's \$100,000 award to expand its "Check Up Pick Up" Dental Transportation Program. The program, which provides round trip transportation to and from a child's school to the dental clinic to receive dental care, will allow CCHC to care for an additional 250 children over the next two years.

Organizations interested in learning more about the application process are invited to participate on a conference call on April 6, 2016 at 1 p.m. CST. The 2016 deadline for applications is May 20 at 5 p.m. CST. The Wisdom Tooth Award recipient will be announced this summer. The organization that receives the grant has up to two years to use the funding.

The application and criteria are available at www.ddilfoundation.org/WisdomGrantreq.aspx. 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 public schools or health departments, are eligible and encouraged to apply.

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About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois, a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of Delta Dental of Illinois and Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation have provided more than \$3 million to programs and organizations in Illinois that improve the oral health of the residents of Illinois.