

Leading Change for
Oral Health in
Pennsylvania

2018-19 Mini Grant Program Summary Report July 23, 2019

In the fall of 2018, Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health announced the recipients of their 2018-19 PA Oral Health Mini-Grant Program. The goal of the program is to facilitate the implementation of the goals and recommendations of the 2017-2020 PA Oral Health Plan. Following is a summary of the initiatives that were funded by the grants.

Funding for this project is through the Pennsylvania Department of Health through Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Kids Smiles

*Head Start Parent Education
Philadelphia*

The overall goal of Kids Smiles' parent engagement workshops is to increase Head Start and Early Head Start parental oral health knowledge that leads to a reduction in early childhood tooth decay among at-risk children. The objectives include delivering seven parent engagement workshops to Head Start parents and two parent engagement workshops to Early Head Start parents during the 2018/19 school year and to educate 55 parents of HS and EHS enrolled children.



Kids Smiles met and exceeded their goal and objectives by providing 11 parent engagement workshops to parents and staff members using the Cavity Free Kids oral health education curriculum specifically designed for use in Early Head Start and Head Start programs, pre-school, and other early child-care environments. All workshop participants received oral health education and supplies (brochures, two-minute timers,

toothbrushes, floss, and toothpaste) to maintain the healthy habits they learned at home.

The grant enabled Kids Smiles to reach more underserved parents/caregivers and Early/Head Start staff with essential oral health educational programming and resources. The parents/caregivers who participated in the workshops reside in underserved Philadelphia communities with little to no access to health literacy resources and face significant barriers to accessing dental care for their young children.

A total of 104 parents/caregiver and 25 Early/Head Start staff members participated in the workshops. The participants engaged in hands-on lessons that emphasized healthy behaviors that prevent dental disease and promote overall wellness. The participants received toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and 2-minute timers during the workshops and our educators demonstrated how to use them to effectively prevent tooth decay for themselves and their young children.

After completing the workshop, the post-test results revealed that an average of 97% of participants identified the statements correctly. The results indicate that a significant majority of participants gained new knowledge about oral health.

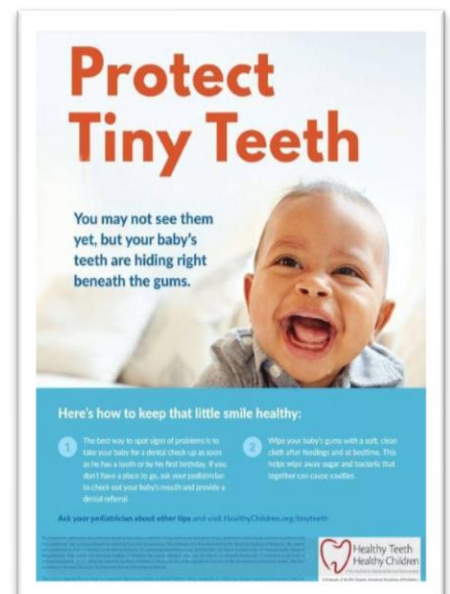
This program was also funded by the Philadelphia Health Partnership. Kids Smiles plans to sustain the program by expanding their partnerships with early learning organizations and through an annual development plan for program support which includes projects such as annual appeals, foundation and corporate support, and fundraising events, among others, to diversify the program funding stream.

***Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children Program (HTHC)
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Protecting Tiny Teeth with Prenatal Oral Health Care Bags
Adams, Cambria, Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Erie, Franklin, Jefferson, McKean,
Jefferson, and Potter Counties***

The purpose of the grant funding was to increase oral health care knowledge and preventive behavior by providing Oral Health Care Bags to expectant families in PA.

HTHC was able to provide oral health educational materials to over 250 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics across PA in 2019. The grant helped support the distribution of prenatal oral health education site packets to the 24 WIC agencies across PA.

HTHC provided approximately 1,000 oral health educational posters, infographics, and brochures targeting pregnant women, mothers, and young children to all WIC local agencies and clinics across PA. This represents a total reach of 210,493 Pennsylvanians.



Recipients of the Prenatal Care Bags included:

- Bradford Hospital WIC Program- Serving McKean County
- United Neighborhood Facilities Health Care Corporation (UNFHCC) – Serving Erie County
- Community Action Partnership of Cambria County (CAPCC) – Serving Cambria County
- North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission (NCRPDC) – Serving Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, and Potter counties
- South Central Community Action Program, Inc. (SCCAP) – Serving Adams and Franklin counties

The project also provided 600 Prenatal Oral Health Care Bags to five targeted local agencies which included 1200 educational brochures, 600 adult toothbrushes, 600 child toothbrushes, 600 infant finger toothbrushes, and 600 tubes of fluoridated toothpaste. The agencies receiving these materials were identified as the highest assessed level of dental decay, per the 2019 WIC nutrition risk assessment.

This project was also funded by: the PA Oral Health Workforce Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. HTHC plans to continue to develop a partnership with PA WIC and will look to secure ongoing funding to be able to provide printed resources to local clinics and agencies in the future.

School District of Lancaster

School District of Lancaster Oral Health Initiative
Lancaster

The School District of Lancaster sought to increase their students' awareness, knowledge, and use of good oral health habits such as brushing, flossing, eating good foods, and not smoking.

They provided lessons by a certified school dental hygienist throughout the school year, displayed posters about good oral health in every secondary school as a reminder to take care of teeth, taught 100 pregnant or parenting students about the problems that can result from prolonged use of baby bottles, and used demonstration models to show students how to properly care for teeth and why it is important to do so.

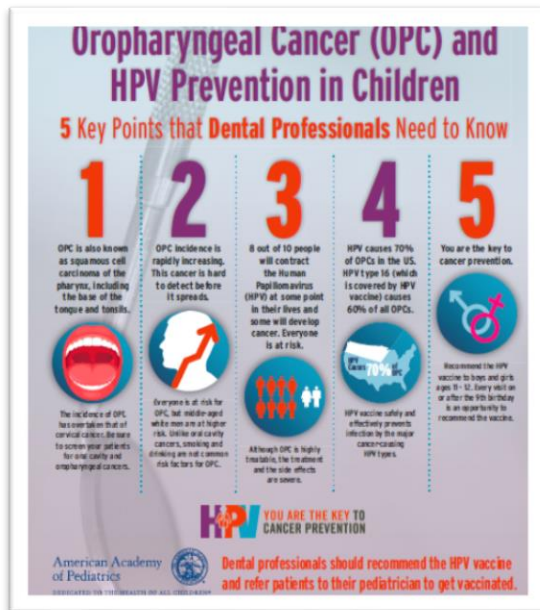
The project reached 6775 students. A total of 2570 students were screened for cavities and 535 of them were referred based on their screening.

This program was also funded by the School District of Lancaster's operating budget. In order to sustain the program, the certified school dental hygienist plans to continue using all new materials ordered and continue providing oral health education throughout as many grades as possible in a part-time contracted position with the School District of Lancaster.

Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition (PAIC)
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
HPV Oral Health
Statewide

PAIC held a campaign to promote dentist and staff awareness of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) disease and oral health, and to increase dentist recommendations to eligible

patients for HPV vaccination. The grant supported a webinar for PA dentists, staff, and others. PAIC educated dentists and dental practice staff on HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer and other HPV-related disease, HPV vaccine, immunization recommendations, aspects of the dental exam related to HPV, and how to talk with patients to effectively recommend the HPV vaccine.



PAIC reached 72 dental practices with the live webinar alone. 153 participants were on the live call.

PAIC indirectly funded the project in staff time. The project will be sustained through the PAIC's ongoing work on this topic and on the collaborations developed during the course.

Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)
Give Kids a Smile
Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks Counties

The goal for this program was to not only connect 715 children to vital oral health care services for one day, but also to increase children's access to care year-round by helping parents of uninsured children apply for Medicaid and CHIP and encourage parents of insured children to make the Smile Day dentist their dental home.

This year, PCCY connected 687 kids with free oral health care services. PCCY held Give Kids a Smile Day from April 18-22, 2019. They recruited 28 dental practices



to participate, including 16 in Philadelphia, 9 in Delaware County, 2 in Montgomery County, and 1 in Bucks County.

PCCY found that 68% of the children served on Give Kids a Smile Day were uninsured (464), the largest percentage in the last three years. Of the children seen, 85% had not seen a dentist in the last 6 months and 75% of the children's parents did not know how to find a dentist to accept their child's insurance.

PCCY translated the Give Kids a Smile Day flyer into Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, Russian, Hindi, French, and Haitian-Creole. PCCY found that 40% of the children served came from a home where English was not the primary language.



PCCY recruited more than 100 volunteers to work the phone bank. They helped book appointments, asked about the child's insurance status, connected parents of uninsured children to PCCY's Helpline for application assistance, and followed up to make sure families remembered their appointments.

This program was also funded by the Foundation for Delaware County and has secured funding for 2020 from the Snider Foundation. PCCY plans to sustain this project for the foreseeable future, considering the continuing need for oral health care among children in Southeastern Pennsylvania.



Project HOME
Oral Health into Primary Care
Philadelphia



Project HOME expanded oral health services to primary care appointments through risk assessment, oral evaluation, preventive interventions, communication and education, and interprofessional collaborative practice for pediatric patients. They wanted medical providers to complete caries risk assessments, perform oral health screenings, apply topical fluoride varnish, provide education and home care instructions, and refer patients to a dental provider.

They provided a training to all providers through Smiles for Life and then provided hands-on assistance through their Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner (PHDHP). All medical providers and residents were trained through Smiles for Life or

Healthy Teeth, Healthy Children's varnish program. Their PHDHP regularly attended medical provider meetings to offer assistance and spent time in the medical clinic. The project is just the beginning of a true integration journey.

During the period of the grant, medical providers applied fluoride varnish, completed oral health assessments, assessed caries risk, and provided oral health education for 46.7% of patients ages 0-14 seen in the medical clinic.

This program was also funded by the American Dental Hygienists' Association with a Wrigley Grant and the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers. They plan to sustain and build off the project to continue to strengthen their medical/dental integration in the coming years.

