



DELTA DENTAL
FOUNDATION 

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Leaders One and All

Moving the needle on oral health education, access and equity would not be possible without the ambitious work of our **grant partners**, big and small, and the Delta Dental Foundation staff and board.

Delta Dental Foundation Staff

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Jen Anderson, Senior Communications Officer
Megan Schreier, Program Officer
Emily Waldschmidt, Program Coordinator

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Our Purpose

To develop and enhance partnerships and programs to improve oral and overall health and health equity

A Letter From Our Executive Director



Every year, I reflect on the fact that our work would not be possible without the power of partnerships.

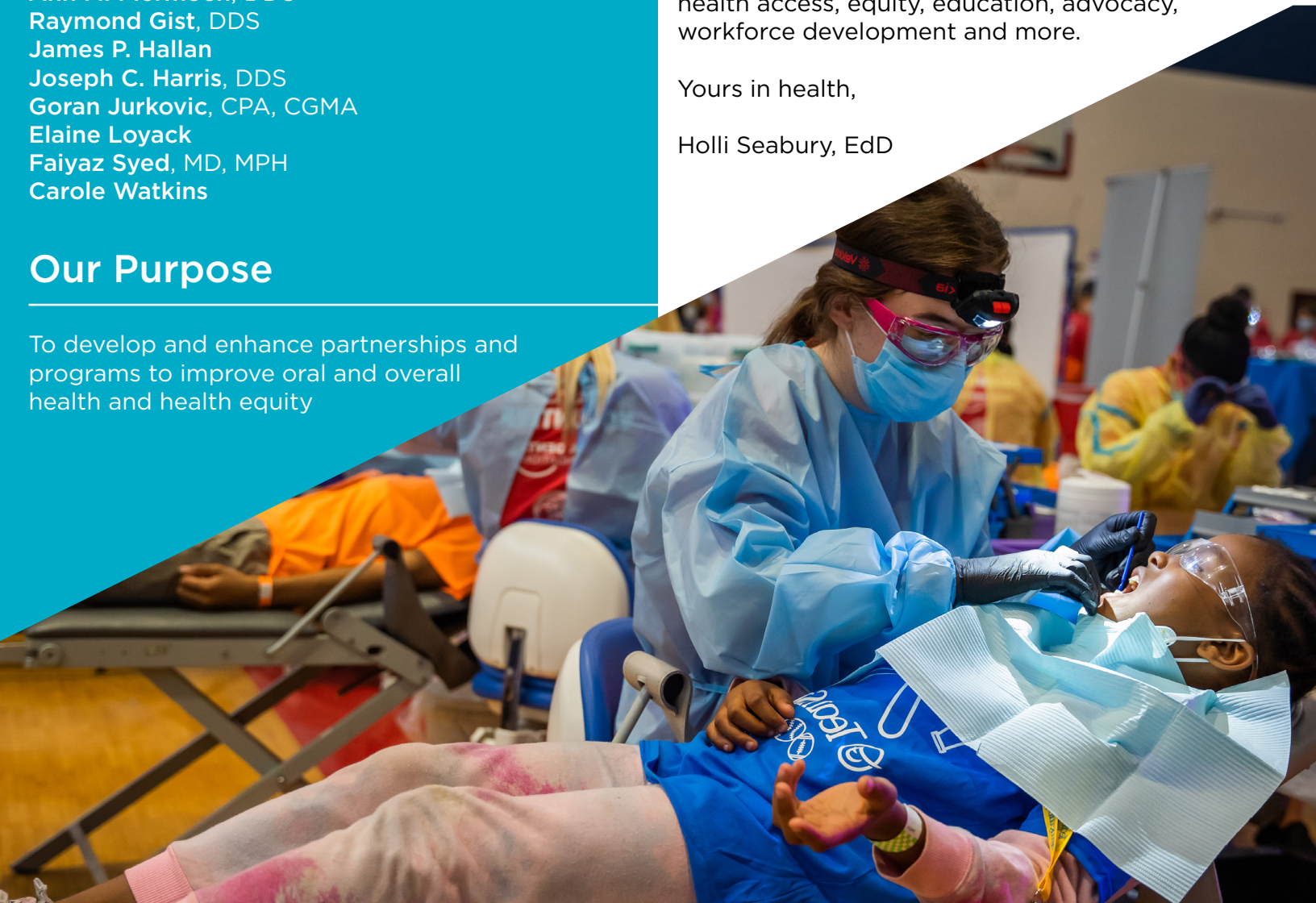
Our grant partners play a vital role in improving access and equity, and we rely on them to shine a light on the areas and issues in most critical need of assistance. The more we learn, the more we can use our platform to inspire change.

Creating a better oral health system isn't something the Delta Dental Foundation can do alone. We need patients, providers, policymakers and advocates to push alongside us. At the end of the day, we're not just funders—we're conveners, facilitators helping to create opportunities to connect and stretch our collective resources.

These partnerships will be even more important as we move forward. In 2023, we'll be advancing a new strategic vision that will focus our work in oral health access, equity, education, advocacy, workforce development and more.

Yours in health,

Holli Seabury, EdD



Oral Health by the Numbers

In 2022, we committed more than **\$7.5 million** in grants, scholarships, sponsorships and educational resources, impacting nearly **1 million lives**.



470,000
brochures, flyers
and posters



29,899
containers of
floss donated

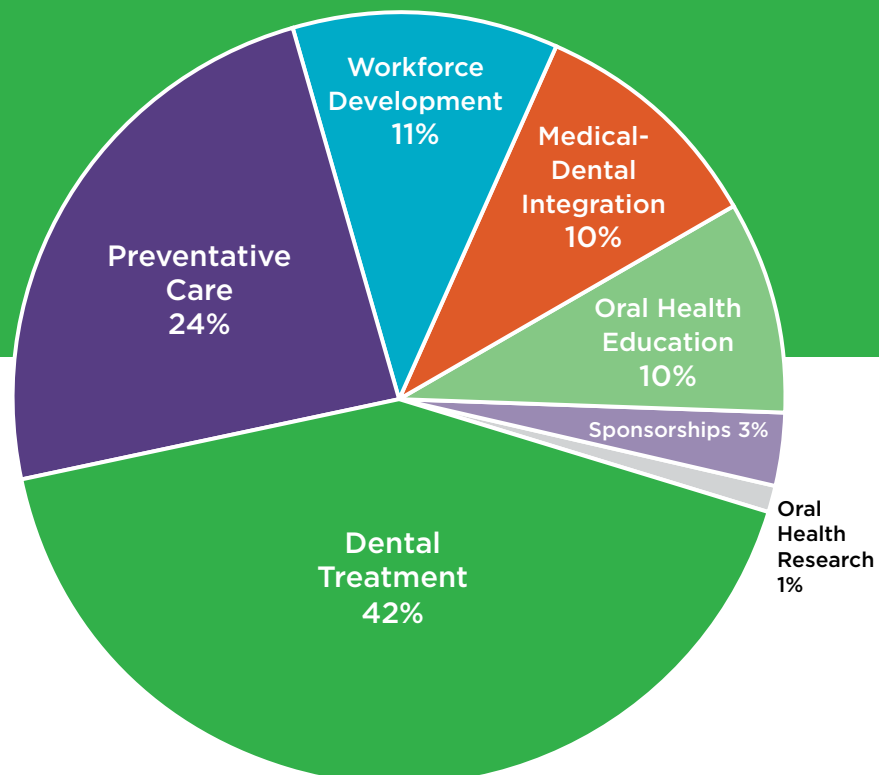


180,000
toothbrushes
donated



87 ORGANIZATIONS
received a total of
\$330,000
through the Community
Mini-grants Program

Areas of Funding



Our Work in 2022

Improving Oral Health Equity for People with Disabilities

For more than 6.5 million people in the United States with an intellectual or developmental disability, oral health care is often inaccessible. Our grantmaking aims to challenge those oral health disparities through policy change, provider training, stigma reduction and education.

- Continued funding **free, online provider training** in partnership with Penn Dental Medicine focused on strengthening skills in treating people with disabilities.
- Awarded \$2 million to the Indiana University School of Dentistry to construct a clinic to care for people with disabilities.

- Expanded the **Centers for Inclusive Dentistry program**.
- Hosted a **free photoshoot for Michiganders with disabilities**, with images provided to families and dental clinics, to help promote inclusivity in dentistry.
- Supported the creation of **Access for All Smiles**, a dental health resource for caregivers of adults with disabilities.
- Supported the development of an interdisciplinary curriculum for medical and dental students on caring for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Our Work in 2022

Developing the Oral Health Workforce

Finding new oral health professionals and recruiting them to practice in underserved areas is difficult for a variety of reasons, including geography, a lack of training or interest in public health dentistry, and compensation. We're refocusing our efforts—and partnerships—on expanding and diversifying the oral health safety net.

- Awarded more than \$270,000 in scholarships to support the next generation of diverse oral health professionals.
- Supported a [dental careers pathway program](#) for high school students through the Warren Arts & Education Foundation.

- Convened more than 60 oral health care providers, educators, advocates, foundation representatives and other stakeholders from across Michigan to [discuss the current oral health landscape](#), including the barriers that prevent access to care, employment, opportunity and education.
- Developed a joint scholarship fund to help train the first class of dental therapists, an important mid-level provider, in Michigan.

BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

- People think they're certified but aren't
- Not filling all our slots *Recruitment*
- Non-CODA schools attract BIPOC and don't know it's not certified
- All students need to be college-level reading + writing
- Many reg's ^{do} embed bias → Structural Racism
- People "just don't know" predatory nature
- Cost of doing externships + travel
- Need training in my community
- Exam is costly (RDH)

Solutions (part 2)

- Marketing what you can do
- Intentional partnership b/w educational programs + Safety Net
- Bridging RDA + CDA
- Can military training bridge cre...
- Registered Apprenticeship Pr...
→ DOL has bff
-



Our Work in 2022

Expanding Access to Care

Whether it's funding equipment, more operatories, new and unique programs or tried-and-true public health initiatives, we are committed to providing more opportunities for people to access dental care in their communities.

- Provided ongoing support for community water fluoridation and state-sponsored dental sealant programs.
- Provided more than \$2.2 million to purchase equipment and support programs to improve access to care for people and communities that have been systematically disadvantaged.

- Funded the brand-new Healthy People. Healthy Communities. Oral Health Fund. For people in Indiana who have chronic conditions and an immediate need for oral health care services and financial assistance.
- Supported new dental clinics in areas of high need.
- Helped fund events through TeamSmile (Detroit and Cleveland) and Medworks (Cleveland) to provide children and adults with needed dental care along with referrals to dental homes.
- Granted \$1.5 million to develop the technological infrastructure needed to offer free oral health screenings for children entering kindergarten in Michigan.



New Opportunities on the Horizon

Connect with us at deltadental.foundation or on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to learn more about how you can be an oral health advocate, future grantee and more!



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