Delta Dental of New Jersey 
Community Outreach

For more than 40 years, Delta Dental of New Jersey has reached out to serve the people of New Jersey and more recently in Connecticut. It is our mission to promote oral health to the greatest number of people by providing accessible dental benefit programs of the highest quality, service, and value. In 1986, we formed the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc. to aid in creating access to care for the underinsured and uninsured, and support dental education programs for children, as well as dental assisting and dental hygiene scholarships for students pursuing a career in the dental field. Each year, our Foundation awards approximately $1 million to support worthwhile non-profit organizations working to provide dental care and education to New Jersey’s and Connecticut’s underserved populations.

Oral Health Education Initiative

In 2007, the Foundation began offering a grant, for up to $5,000, to elementary schools located in Abbott School Districts because currently oral health is not a mandated part of the New Jersey school curriculum. The goal of this grant is to promote oral health education all school year long, as well as instill good oral hygiene habits at a young age. This grant is geared towards third graders, and schools must complete our Foundation’s grant application that requires 10 oral health lessons (one per month of the school year). Some lessons include: reading books about dental health, field trips to local dental offices, making homemade toothpaste, and learning about dental careers. Since 2007, 23 schools have received this grant totaling more than $83,000.

Community Outreach and Employee Involvement

- For over 15 years, Delta Dental has been a Premier Sponsor of Special Olympics—NJ. Our employees volunteer to assist at games and competitions throughout the state.
- Our employees donate holiday gifts to different local charitable organizations, which have included: Youth Consultation Services, VA Hospital, Fireman’s Retirement Home, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, and Toys for Tots.
- Our employees participate in the American Heart Association’s “Go Red for Women” campaign each February to generate awareness and education about heart disease.
- Since 2004, Delta Dental employees have participated in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. To date our employees, along with a company match, have donated nearly $58,000 to this cause.
- In 2006, Delta Dental created a Volunteer Policy, which enables all employees to take off up to two work days with pay to volunteer for local charitable organizations of their choice. Group volunteer activities include: building homes for families in need through Habitat for Humanity, taking care of animals at local animal shelters, and helping children in need receive free dental care on Give Kids A Smile Day.

Dental Care for the Underserved

Approximately two thirds of the Foundation’s nearly $1 million budget is focused on access to care for the underserved. The Foundation supports the following:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark Dental Clinic
- Cathedral Kitchen, Camden
- Connecticut Mission of Mercy
- East Orange Health and Human Services Dental Clinic
- Eva’s Village, Paterson
- Hospital for Special Care, New Britain, CT
- Jersey Shore University Medical Center Dental Clinic, Neptune
- JFK Medical Center Dental Clinic, Edison
- KinderSmile Foundation, serving Montclair, East Orange, and Orange
- Matheny Medical and Educational Center, Peapack
- Morristown Medical Center Dental Clinic
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Dental Clinic
- Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc., Lakewood
- Paterson Dental Clinic
- Stratford Health Department School-Based Dental Clinic, CT
- Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (formerly UMDNJ-NJ Dental School)— Delta Dental Special Care Center, Newark
- Yale-New Haven Hospital Dental Clinic, New Haven, CT
- Zufall Health Center, Dover
How Do I Apply for Funding for My Organization?

The Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation has a strong commitment to the improvement of oral health in New Jersey and Connecticut. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization, established in 1986 by Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. Today, the Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of New Jersey and has awarded more than $13.7 million since its inception. Each year, the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation awards grants throughout the states of New Jersey and Connecticut for dental education programs and access to dental care for the underserved. Some grants are awarded for one-time projects, and some grants may continue from year to year, depending on funds available and the success of the program.

The grant approval process:

- The Foundation Board of Trustees meets three times a year.
- At the September meeting, the Board reviews all preliminary (Round One) applications for the upcoming year. Those grantees that are selected for further consideration are notified they will be moving to the Round Two process. Those grantees not selected will also be notified.
- At the December meeting, the Board reviews the Round Two applications and awards grants. All are notified of the outcome.
- At the May meeting, the Board plans for the following year’s grant funding cycle.

Requirements of grantees:

- Grantees must include a copy of their current valid Internal Revenue Service tax exemption determination letter (must be a 501(c)3 or a government entity) or 990 Form.
- Grantees must complete the Grant Application and answer all questions.
- Grantees must sign and return a Grant Agreement before funds are disbursed.
- Grantees are required to complete all answers to an Outcomes Report that will be supplied to them. The Outcomes Reports are due six months into and 45 days after the end of the grant period.
- Grantees must allow Foundation Board members to make a site visit at their facility at a mutually convenient time.
- Grantees must file an application annually, even when they are continuing programs from year to year.

The Foundation can be reached at foundation@deltadentalnj.com or 973-944-4555.

Oral Health Education

Delta Dental has for more than two decades sponsored the Captain Supertooth program, an educational program for elementary schools throughout New Jersey and Connecticut. The superhero visits schools (and community events) to teach children the importance of oral health and to show them how to brush and floss their teeth. He also encourages them to eat nutritious foods and visit the dentist at least twice a year. P.A.N.D.A. (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness) is an educational program to help dental professionals, teachers, and anyone who works with children how to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect.

To demonstrate our sensitivity to the critical shortage of dental professionals, the Foundation has made major contributions to:

- Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions (formerly UMDNJ-School of Health Related Professions)
- Bergen Community College
- Burlington County College
- Camden County College
- Middlesex County College
- Tunxis Community College, CT
- University of Bridgeport, CT
- High School Dental Assisting Programs at Bloomfield High School, Montclair High School, Newark Public Schools, and Nutley High School

For more information about Delta Dental’s Foundation and community involvement, please visit www.deltadentalnj.com and click on “Foundation” in the top navigation bar.

Connect with Us:

Read our Community Blog:

www.nj.com/helpinghands/deltadental/