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Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Awards More than \$4 Million in Grants
Nineteen Organizations Providing Oral Health Care Services for Children to Receive Grants

HINSDALE, Ill. – Working toward a goal of improving children's overall health by investing in their oral health, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) announced more than \$4 million in grants to organizations to help establish or expand dental care programs for children. Dollars awarded will fund programs in community health centers, school health centers and public health departments across the state.

"The Foundation is the only grant-making organization that focuses on children's health throughout the state and is committed to improving the health of all children living in Illinois," said Dr. Peter E. Doris, chair of the ILCHF board of directors. "These grants mark the first round of funding to support the Foundation's five-year, \$20 million initiative to improve the oral health of children."

Since its inception in 2003, ILCHF has created opportunities for and led the development of initiatives that improve the health of all children, such as the Foundation's recent oral health care initiative. ILCHF is proud to announce the first round of grants for this initiative, which, over time, will improve the capacity of the safety net system throughout the state to provide high-quality dental care to children, increase the dental workforce willing and able to serve children from low-income families and educate a variety of audiences about the essential role oral health plays in a child's overall health.

"Understanding the pivotal role dental health plays in the overall well-being of children, we've awarded grants that support some of the state's most critical, local programs working to provide oral health care services for children," said Susan B. Kerr, president of ILCHF. "These grants represent real dollars at work to help all children, including those who are underserved, in Illinois communities."

Organizations awarded grants, include:

Metro Chicago/Cook County

- Alivio Medical Center: \$294,793 to expand and integrate two existing oral health programs, its dental clinic and its "Oral Health in the Schools" program.

- Chicago Family Health Center, Inc.: \$102,000 to expand oral health services through three additional dental staff.
- Oak Park and River Forest Infant Welfare Society: \$70,000 to expand access to oral health services by hiring a part-time contractual dentist at its clinic in Oak Park and expanding the community oral health program, providing additional support for outreach in area schools and social service agencies.
- PCC Community Wellness Center: \$200,000 to develop an oral health care program at its new Austin Family Health Center, including the construction and equipment for four dental operatories.
- St. Bernard Hospital: \$187,400 to expand its new dental clinic through the addition of a pediatric dentist and dental assistant to serve children in the Englewood community.

Northern Illinois

- Community Health Care, Inc.: \$126,336 for the staff required to expand dental care at its full-service primary care clinic located in Rock Island, Ill.
- Community Health Partnership of Illinois: \$492,623 over two years to establish and operate a new pediatric dental clinic that will be part of the agency's first community health clinic to serve all uninsured and underinsured families and individuals in Mendota and surrounding communities.
- Crusaders Central Clinic Association: \$185,752 to expand existing dental services to the most in need pediatric patients through the addition of a new dentist and two dental assistants.
- McHenry County Health Department: \$255,000 to expand the McHenry County Cooperative Dental Clinic operations from three to five days a week by hiring a full-time dentist and dental assistant, and purchasing additional equipment and supplies.
- Whiteside County Community Health Clinic, Inc.: \$75,000 to expand its dental program with dental staff that will use new mobile dental equipment to reach out to more schools in the area.

Central Illinois

- Adams County Health Department: \$208,638 to expand oral health care services for children at the Adams County Health Department Dental Clinic by recruiting additional staff and purchasing new equipment to grow the clinic's orthodontic program.

- Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.: \$202,412 to expand its oral health program by equipping three additional operatories and increasing its staff.
- DeWitt/Piatt Bi-County Health Department: \$160,000 for the development of a new dental clinic to serve children and fill the current gap in availability of dental professionals in its two-county service area.
- Hancock County Health Department: \$300,000 to expand an existing dental clinic to include four additional operatories, and new reception and waiting areas for children and families.
- Knox County Health Department: \$300,000 for an expansion of the clinic to include three new dental operatories, and to update its sterilization station and administrative and waiting room facilities.

Collar Counties (Will and Kankakee)

- Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center: \$100,000 to expand access to oral health care through a Mobile Health Unit to serve the communities within Kankakee and Southern Cook counties.
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center: \$500,000 over two years to establish a new Children's Dental Clinic at its health center to serve underserved, publicly insured and underinsured children from Elgin and surrounding communities.

Southern Illinois

- Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation: \$163,258 for the dental staff required to expand services for child and adolescent patients served in three existing dental sites, including the Shawnee Dental Center, Adolescent Health Center and Marion Wellness Center.
- Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation: \$127,416 to expand the capacity of its new health care center to provide oral health services to children in Granite City.

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About Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation

The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation was formed in 2003 with one goal in mind: to improve the health of all Illinois children. Through the release of targeted RFPs and proactive, ongoing funding, ILCHF works to eliminate the barriers that prevent children from regularly accessing high-quality health care. Since 2004, the Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to organizations serving children's health needs across the state. Please visit www.ilchf.org for more information about the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation.