

**Agenda Item 13**
July 6, 2016

DATE: June 28, 2016

TO: Children and Families Commission of Orange County

FROM: Kimberly Goll, Executive Director *Kimberly Goll*

ACTION: Receive report on the California Department of Health Care Services, Dental Transformation Initiative

SUMMARY:

In June, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) released a request for applications from eligible entities interested in implementing Local Dental Pilot Programs (LDPP) through its Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI). The DTI is part of DHCS' Medi-Cal section 1115(a) Waiver Demonstration. The goal of the DTI is to improve the Denti-Cal system and its outcomes for children by promoting increased use of preventive dental services and continuity of care. This agenda item describes the opportunity for the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and requests authorization to submit an application for DTI funding.

DISCUSSION:

Earlier this year, the Little Hoover Commission, an independent state oversight commission, published a report which concluded that the Denti-Cal system is in need of intensive fixes to address persistent service gaps, low utilization of preventive services, and disproportionately high utilization of restorative dental care among the poor and underserved.

The federal government approved renewal of the Medi-Cal 2020 section 1115(a) Medicaid Demonstration, which granted waivers of statutory Medicaid requirements for purposes of piloting strategies to improve healthcare access and outcomes for underserved populations. Within California's Waiver Demonstration, the Dental Transformation Initiative (DTI) represents a critical mechanism to improve dental health for children in Medi-Cal by focusing on preventive care, improved access, and utilization of performance measures to drive delivery system reform.

The DTI provides \$750 million in total funds over a five-year period (\$10 million of these funds contingent on achieving statewide metrics). The Dental Transformation Initiative funding will support direct incentives to Denti-Cal providers and selected Local Dental Pilot Projects (LDPPs) that address the key aims of promoting higher preventive service utilization for children, performing caries risk assessment and disease management, and increasing continuity of care. Statewide, the maximum funding available to support the selected LDPP shall not exceed 25 percent of the DTI total funding limit of \$740 million, equal to \$185 million for four years, or approximately \$46.25 million each year. The Department of Health Care Services intends to award a maximum of 15 LDPPs throughout the state. Grant applications are due by August 15, 2016. The Department of Health Care Services anticipates issuing notification of awards on October 31, 2016.

The Special Terms and Conditions of the waiver specify that the Applicant and Lead Entity for the LDPP must be a county, a tribe, an Indian Health Services program, University of California or California State University campus. Although the state initially indicated that First 5 and County Commissions are not eligible to apply, DHCS has since received further guidance on this matter from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). According to the First 5 Association and the Health Care Agency (HCA) staff, who are in communication with DHCS staff managing this initiative, CMS has clarified that First 5 and County Commissions are eligible to serve as a lead agency for an LDPP. As of the filing of this agenda item, formal notification to this effect from DHCS is pending.

In preparation for submitting a DTI application, Commission staff has been working with HCA, Public Health Services and The Olin Group to solicit input for program design from stakeholders, including Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County, the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, and the Orange County Oral Health Zone, and identify areas of greatest need throughout the county. Based on this input, as well as a thorough review of DHCS' published funding guidelines and restrictions, the Commission's application will request funding for:

1. Implementation of a dental warm line, with care coordination to support timely access to appropriate care for children;
2. Increasing access to preventive care for underserved children in community settings via teledentistry;
3. Strengthening the Denti-Cal provider network's capacity and effectiveness to serve children through training and engagement of providers; and,
4. Evaluation of the effectiveness of these approaches based on state-determined targets.

Given the condensed timeline between award notification by DHCS in late October and the required project launch date of January 1, 2017, the Commission staff will issue a request for application(s) in summer and will return to the Commission for contract authorization in October. All awards will be contingent on state funding.

STRATEGIC PLAN & FISCAL SUMMARY:

The Dental Transformation Initiative Local Dental Pilot Project has been specifically reviewed in relation to the Commission's Strategic Plan and is consistent with the Commission's Healthy Children goal area. There is no funding requested for this item.

PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS:

- None

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report on the California Department of Health Care Services, Dental Transformation Initiative.

Contact: Ilia Rolon

Dental Transformation Initiative Grant Opportunity



Children & Families Commission of Orange County

Local Dental Pilot Program (LDPP) Criteria



- Request for Applications issued by state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
 - Purpose is to improve Denti-Cal system and its outcomes for children through increases in:
 1. Preventive Services Utilization for Children (≤ 20 years)
 2. Caries Risk Assessment and Disease Management (≤ 6 years)
 3. Continuity of Care (≤ 20 years)
 - Total LDPP funding limited to max of \$185 million for four years; no more than 15 projects to be approved statewide
 - Per project limit is \$12.33 million (approximately \$3 million per year)



- Grant Timeline
 - RFP released June 15
 - Due August 15
 - Awards notification on October 31
- Program implementation date is January 2017
- Application must specify strategies, target populations, payment methodologies and participating entities
- Must designate one lead; eligible entities include county, Tribe, Indian Health Program, UC or CSU, and First 5/Children and Families Commissions



- Engaged The Olin Group to assist with grant development
- Convened meetings with various stakeholders, including:
 - Health Care Agency
 - Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County
 - Orange County Department of Education
 - Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers
 - Orange County Oral Health Zone, National Children’s Oral Health Foundation
 - UC Irvine
 - Orange County Dental Society



- Based on review of community needs and gaps, stakeholder input, and DHCS guidance, identified three key program components:
 1. Implement dental warm line, with care coordination to support timely access to appropriate care for children
 2. Increase access to preventive care for underserved children in community settings via teledentistry / Virtual Dental Home model
 3. Strengthen Denti-Cal provider network's capacity and effectiveness to serve children through,
 - a. Training and engagement of providers
 - b. Promoting expanded scope at Federally Qualified Health Centers

