



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$4,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to The Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County**

**Concord, NC (May 9, 2018)** –The Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, also known as Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA), received a \$4,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to provide high-quality, comprehensive dental services to approximately 20 students who couldn't otherwise afford them through their mobile dental clinic. The grant will also support an educational component for children who receive services and their parents on the importance of early preventative dental care.

According to the 2016 Cabarrus Community Needs Assessment, local access to dental treatment and preventative services is a persistent, widespread issue for the uninsured and underinsured. Additionally, preventative dental services falls under the top three health services forgone due to cost in Cabarrus County. This struggle consequently impacts children who may also lack access to dental services due to factors such as: cost, provider shortages, and transportation barriers.

“CHA is thrilled to utilize the Delta Dental Foundation’s Smiles for Kids funds to provide dental services to 20 uninsured students in Cabarrus County Schools,” said CHA Program Manager Katie Dight. “These funds will allow us to provide comprehensive preventive care to some of our community’s most vulnerable students and to assist them in developing a strong dental home within CHA. The program has been a tremendous success in the past and as our school-based dental program continues to grow, we look forward to ensuring increased access to affordable care to more students in our county.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring children and adults in North Carolina receive premiere oral health education and high-quality dental care. The grant received by Cabarrus Health Alliance is one of 19 grants totaling \$65,800 awarded in 2018 to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the fourth year that Cabarrus Health Alliance has been awarded a Smiles for Kids grant. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement and the ability to measure results.

“The Delta Dental Foundation is committed to promoting good oral health habits and providing better access to quality dental care for those who are underserved in our state,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “Supporting the work of Cabarrus Health Alliance can help ensure that more children receive the care they need and are educated about the importance of good oral health to grow up healthy and be successful in school and in life.”

**About Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County**

Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County, also known as Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA), is committed to addressing the comprehensive oral health needs of the underserved community through collaborative and innovative approaches. CHA is the largest provider of dental services for the indigent in Cabarrus County. CHA's dental program provides oral health education, preventive and restorative dentistry services for children and adults in order to promote oral health throughout our community. For more information, visit [www.cabarrushealth.org](http://www.cabarrushealth.org).

**About the Delta Dental Foundation**

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit <http://www.deltadentalnc.com>.

**About Delta Dental of North Carolina**

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

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