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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$5,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to the Wake County Department of Human Services

Raleigh, NC (April 17, 2018) – The Wake County Department of Human Services received a \$5,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to provide dental sealants for uninsured and underinsured children from low-income households.

Many families choose not to have sealants placed due to cost, but sealants are an effective way of preventing future expenses that may come from necessary restorations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), after sealants are applied, they protect against 80% of cavities for 2 years and continue to protect against 50% of cavities for up to 4 years.¹

“Wake County Human Services Dental Clinic greatly appreciates the generosity of the Delta Dental Foundation’s Smiles for Kids grant,” said Wake County Human Services Dental Director Dr. Rebecca Sykes. “This grant opportunity will allow our clinic to provide 500 sealants at no cost to uninsured and underinsured children, a preventative treatment proven to reduce the risk of dental cavities on the biting surface of molars.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high-quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by the Wake County Department of Human Services is one of 19 grants totaling \$65,800 that DDF is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the fourth Smiles for Kids grant awarded to the Wake County Department of Human Services. 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 in the program and the ability to measure results.

“Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease today, and children miss 51 million hours of school every year due to dental issues,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “The Delta Dental Foundation’s grant to the Wake County Department of Human Services will help reach more underserved children and provide them with better access to the dental care they need to develop healthy behaviors and show up for school pain free and ready to learn.”

¹ School-Based Dental Sealant Programs. (2016, November 15). Retrieved February 24, 2017, from https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/dental_sealant_program/

About The Wake County Department of Human Services

Wake County's public health clinics offer health care for children and adults, ranging from treatment to education. The dental clinic offers preventive and treatment dental services for children from birth through age 20. Wake County's services include exams, cleanings, fluorides, sealants, restorations, extractions, space maintenance, and dental health education. For more information, visit <http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/>.

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 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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