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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$22,000 in Grants to North Carolina Organizations Benefiting Oral Health of Underserved Adults

RALEIGH, N.C. — November, 5th 2019 — The Delta Dental Foundation (DDF), Delta Dental of North Carolina’s philanthropic arm, awarded \$22,000 in grants to three North Carolina organizations to advance oral health among underserved adults.

In North Carolina, approximately 400,000 adults are underserved and uninsured,¹ limiting access to critical health and dental care. Mounting evidence suggests that poor oral health care leads to increased physical and mental health issues and greater cost to individuals and health care institutions.² By investing in organizations focused on providing high-quality oral care to underserved adults, DDF is working to improve the oral and overall health of those in need.

“Our mission is to improve the oral health of the communities we serve,” said Curt Ladig, CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “Through the recent grants awarded to the Community Care Clinic of Rowan County, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, and TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers), we are also striving to improve lives.”

Details about the latest Delta Dental Foundation grant recipients are below.

The [Community Care Clinic of Rowan County](#) received **\$6,000** to provide free dental care for uninsured adults. Rowan County’s Community Care Clinic is home to a dental clinic that provides cleanings, examinations, extractions, x-rays, and tooth fillings for its patients. This dental clinic is the only free option for adults in Rowan County.

[Wake Forest University Health Sciences](#) received **\$6,000** to pilot a dental referral program by paying the office visit fee for patients that need oral health assessments, emergency tooth extractions, or tooth fillings, as needed. The Delta Dental Foundation is also providing \$2,000 worth of in-kind adult dental kits to be used during community outreach.

¹ Riley, B. (2019, January 29). Profiling North Carolina’s Uninsured: How Expanding Medicaid Can Make a Difference. Retrieved October 30, 2019, from <https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/profiling-north-carolinas-uninsured-how-expanding-medicaid-can-make-a-difference/>.

² MacDougall, H. (2016, August 1). Dental Disparities among Low-Income American Adults: A Social Work Perspective. Retrieved October 30, 2019, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4985883/>.

[Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc.](#) (TROSAs), a licensed treatment facility helping substance abusers become healthy, productive members of their communities and families, received **\$10,000** to address residents' dental needs. It will also help to support a dedicated fund for dental expenses.

The grants received by the organizations are three of the 22 grants totaling \$92,000 that the DDF awarded to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs this year. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results. If you know a nonprofit organization who should be considered for a 2020 grant, visit <https://northcarolina.deltadental.com/en/giving-back.html>.

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 <https://northcarolina.deltadental.com/en/giving-back.html>.

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a not-for-profit 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. For more information, visit www.deltadentalnc.com.

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