



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delta Dental of North Carolina
4242 Six Forks Road
Suite 970
Raleigh, NC 27609

Contact:
Elaine Loyack
ELoyack@DeltaDentalNC.com
(919) 424-1044

Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$4,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to Special Olympics North Carolina to Improve Oral Health of Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Raleigh, NC (May 31, 2019) – Special Olympics North Carolina received a \$4,000 grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) at their Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games Opening Ceremony to improve access to oral health care and education for children with intellectual disabilities. Nearly 1,800 athletes will participate in the 2019 Special Olympics North Carolina Summer Games from May 31 to June 2 at various Raleigh-area locations.

The grant will help to provide two one-day dental screening and oral health education clinics in collaboration with the UNC School of Dentistry and the ECU School of Dentistry. The clinics will be held in Winston-Salem and Beaufort area schools. Children who receive dental screenings will receive referrals for follow-up care, if needed, as well as oral health educational materials. This project will positively impact oral health for an estimated 200 children with intellectual disabilities. This collaboration will also help educate dental health professionals about the special needs of these children.

“Partnerships with health-related organizations such as the Delta Dental Foundation are very important in our work to improve the health and wellness of Special Olympics athletes,” said Keith L. Fishburne, president/CEO of Special Olympics North Carolina. “We’re extremely grateful for the Delta Dental Foundation’s generous support and look forward to enhancing our commitment to improving health in communities throughout North Carolina.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring children and adults in North Carolina receive high quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by Special Olympics North Carolina is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 awarded to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs in 2019. 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.

“Many communities across North Carolina face challenges to providing oral health care services to children with intellectual disabilities,” Delta Dental of North Carolina CEO Curtis Ladig said. “With our foundation’s support of Special Olympics North Carolina, we can help address this crucial need and close the gap between those with access and those without.”

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.deltadentalinc.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.

About Special Olympics North Carolina

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Special Olympics North Carolina is one of the largest Special Olympics programs in the world with nearly 40,000 registered athletes who train and compete in year-round programs in 19 different sports. For more information visit, www.sonc.net.