

## Venture Fund for Oral Health

Letters of Intent may be submitted at any time through November, 2011.

### Key Dates and Deadlines

#### May 31, 2011

Release of application invitation.

#### Application Deadline

Letters of Intent and applications for the Venture Fund will be accepted on a rolling basis through November, 2011.

### Background

The DentaQuest Foundation (Foundation) strives to leverage its philanthropic resources to produce measureable improvements in the systems that impact oral health. With a goal of promoting optimal oral health for all, the Foundation envisions oral health systems that are effective and efficient in preventing oral disease and in providing equitable access to high-quality care to diverse populations. To achieve this goal, we are committed to identifying and supporting the spread of solutions that have demonstrated impact in improving oral health systems. These investments will lead to greater access to oral health care, a reduction of disease and disability, and an enhancement of health promotion and health literacy.

The Foundation invests in programs and initiatives that positively impact the following four systems:

- Public **policy** that supports improved oral health;
- Increased public and private **funding** for oral health initiatives;
- Improvement in the delivery of oral health **care** and prevention programs;
- Expanded **community** engagement on oral health issues.

### Inquiries

For more information about the Fund and eligibility please contact:

#### Brian Souza

Managing Director

P 617.886.1411

[brian.souza@dentaquestfoundation.org](mailto:brian.souza@dentaquestfoundation.org)

For more information on the application process please contact:

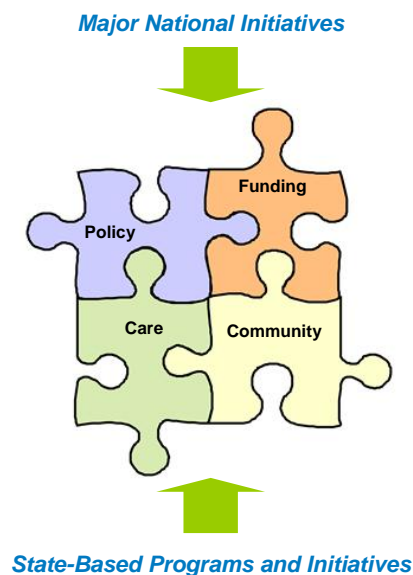
#### Brenda Lavasta

Programs and Grants Associate

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## Purpose

One of the key barriers to improving systems is the lack of funding to support bringing effective solutions to scale. To address this barrier, the Foundation, through the Venture Fund for Oral Health, will make a series of strategic investments in programs and initiatives that successfully promote optimal oral health, have demonstrated positive outcomes, and have the potential for growth.

The Foundation's Venture Fund for Oral Health is seeking strong, successful organizations with a track record of results to expand the reach and impact of programs or initiatives that:

- Demonstrate measurable improvement to/in the systems that impact oral health;
- Have the potential for larger-scale replication;
- Have a clearly articulated theory of change that reflects what makes the program or initiative successful and how that success could be replicated;
- Leverage existing networks to facilitate a growth strategy.

The Foundation will establish engaged relationships with all Venture Fund grantees, employing a blended model of financial support and technical assistance. Each grantee in the portfolio will receive funding and technical assistance to support the expansion of their program or initiative on a larger scale. Both the funding and technical assistance will support business planning, capacity building, and program evaluation. The Foundation will foster shared learning by facilitating opportunities to share successes and challenges among Venture Fund grantees.

Applicant organizations will be asked to clearly demonstrate:

- The impact of their program or initiative on one or more of the four systems defined above;
- A record of success in program planning, development and implementation;
- The capacity to replicate successes to benefit a larger population and new geographic areas;
- A realistic and achievable plan for expansion;
- Objective benchmarks to measure the success and impact of program expansion.

## Awards Process

Proposals to the Venture Fund will be accepted on a rolling basis. There are two stages in the competitive proposal process for the Venture Fund. Interested applicants should first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) describing the proposed project (*see detailed instructions on page 4*). Following a review by the Foundation, qualified applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The Foundation will select and develop a portfolio of up to four (4) promising programs or initiatives that have demonstrated measureable impact and are poised for expansion.

Funding will be awarded as follows:

- A total of up to \$1,000,000 will be awarded from the Venture Fund in 2011. The size of individual awards will be determined based on the scope and scale of the proposed expansion activities.
- In addition to financial support, grantees will receive technical assistance on building organizational capacity to ensure success in program expansion and to facilitate shared learning among Venture Fund grantees.

## Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be based in the United States or its territories and may be either public entities or non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

## Selection Criteria

Grantees for the Venture Fund for Oral Health will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Evidence (including data) of the program's or initiative's impact on one or more of the four identified oral health systems and justification for replication.
- Organizational capacity, including leadership, human and financial resources, and external partnerships, to bring the identified program or initiative to scale.
- Ability to articulate the organization's Theory of Change; reflecting an understanding of how the program or initiative has produced successful outcomes and how expansion of the program or initiative would benefit a larger population and geographic area.
- Clarity and practicality of the anticipated outcomes and potential impact on one or more of the four systems areas outlined by the Foundation.
- Capacity of the organization to implement the proposed project and manage grant funds.
- Feasibility of proposed goals within the allotted timeframe.
- Commitment of the organization to measure its performance and its intent to evaluate and improve outcomes.

## Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for related staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, related travel, and other program or initiative expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. In keeping with the Foundation's grantmaking policy, grant funds should not be used solely for general operating expenses. Foundation funds may not be used for capital expenditures, lobbying, endowments, scholarships, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.

## Evaluation

In evaluating its investment in the Venture Fund, the Foundation will seek to measure the impact of the grantee's activities on the four systems of Policy, Funding, Care, and Community. Grantees will be expected to develop metrics and monitor/measure the local impact on these key systems. To support these efforts, the Foundation has engaged an independent evaluation consultant to provide technical assistance to grantees to develop metrics for their individual activities.

In addition, the Foundation's evaluation consultant will develop an overall evaluation plan for the Venture Fund, which will be supported directly by the Foundation. As a condition of accepting funds, grantees must participate in the evaluation process. Grantee participation will include assisting with collecting the needed data to accomplish the evaluation objectives.

## How to Apply

As a first step, please submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) (no more than three (3) single-spaced pages) to Brenda Lavasta, Programs and Grants Associate, DentaQuest Foundation. In preparing the LOI, applicants should address the following two (2) areas:

1. Describe the program or initiative to be expanded, including data and supporting information, which illustrates the impact in improving one or more of the systems of policy, funding, care, and community supports for optimal oral health.
2. Describe the vision for the expansion/scaling of this program or initiative, the target of that expansion, and the anticipated impact.

Following a review of the LOI, the Foundation will select and invite finalists to submit a full proposal through the Foundation's Online Application System.

The Foundation's online application process consists of easy-to-follow steps for grant seekers, including online data entry, the preparation of standardized forms, adding required attachments, and saving an unfinished application to return later for completion and submission.

Eligibility and General Fund Inquiries:

**Brian Souza**, Managing Director  
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Application Process Inquiries:

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