

## DentaQuest Foundation Grantmaking Statement of Purpose

This year, we are launching an Oral Health 2020 effort, a national movement that will create a new social norm in this country about our oral health, one that will join and integrate with the much larger network of leaders across the country working to improve the health of all.

It's time for us to expect oral health. For us *ALL* to expect oral health. Together, we're going to do something about it. The days of waiting in lines overnight to get teeth pulled, of children dying from untreated decay, of being forced to choose between needed care and other essential expenses, these days are over.

Since launching a national systems-change strategy in 2010, the Foundation has, through its investments, facilitated the weaving of a large and powerful network of national, state, and community-based change agents working to improve the oral health of all. Together with over 130 grantee partners in 35 states and at the national level, we have begun to catalyze a network that is poised to transform the national dialogue and re-shape the landscape of action on behalf of oral health.

Over the next 5 to 7 years, we will further catalyze this network in strengthening oral health and health care policy, broadening access to quality care and prevention, aligning financial investments in oral health, and expanding the integration of oral health into community-based systems. We are going to eradicate dental disease in children, and improve oral health across the lifespan. These are the goals we'll achieve together:

## Oral Health 2020

**Vision: To eradicate dental disease in children and improve oral health across the lifespan**

**Goal: Mandatory inclusion of an adult dental benefit in publicly funded health insurance**

- *By 2020: At least 30 states have a comprehensive Medicaid adult dental benefit, and no states that currently have a Medicaid adult dental benefit roll back or eliminate that coverage*
- *By 2020: Medicare includes a comprehensive dental benefit*
- *By 2020: Oral health is a component of patient-centered care models*

**Goal: Oral health incorporated into the primary education system**

- *By 2020: The 10 largest school districts have incorporated oral health into their systems*

**Goal: Comprehensive national oral health measurement system**

- *By 2020: A national and state-based oral health measurement system is in place*

**Goal: Eradicate dental disease in children**

- *By 2020: 75% of children reach age 5 without a cavity*

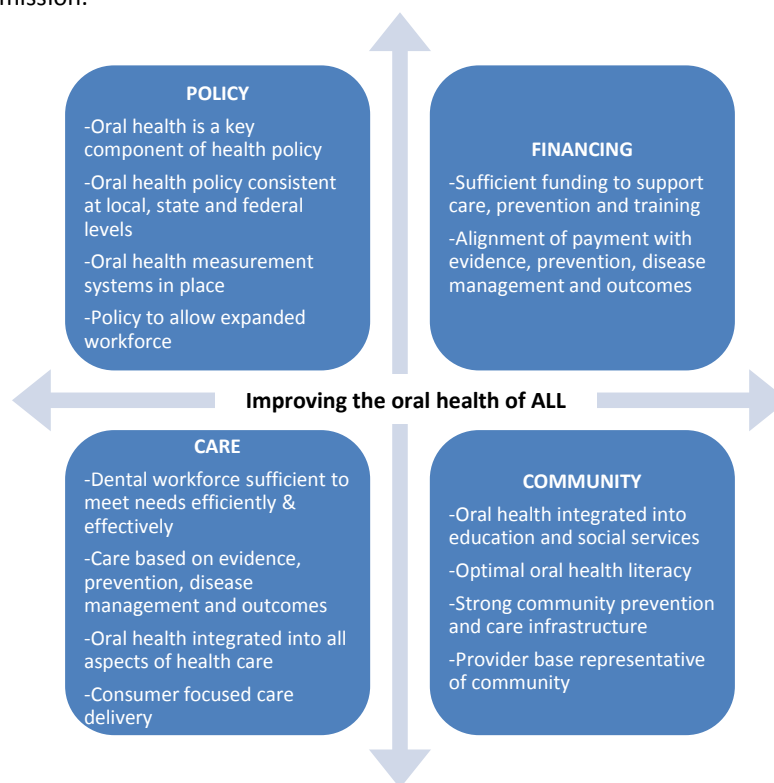
Civil rights. AIDS. Tobacco. LGBT rights.

Over the past half a century, these social movements have redefined the way that we think about our lives. In order to make broad-sweeping, sustainable change, these movements shared common themes—people were connected, organized, and mobilized around a shared vision. Policy change institutionalized improvements.

Innovative strategies were implemented. Equity and social justice served as guiding values. The needs of the community were supported through public and private services. Above all, these campaigns reminded us that together, we can shape a nation that better supports our ability to live happy and healthy lives.

With the passage and now implementation of Health Reform, healthcare in this country has become the issue of our times. Yet as this story unfolds, we find ourselves without agreement about what it means to be healthy, about the mind, the mouth, and the body all being a part of the same person. This fragmentation has led to vast discrepancies in the way these various components of overall health will be addressed as the quest to provide universal coverage continues. Moreover, by failing to address the root causes of poor health, we will not realize the vision of an equitable healthcare system that improves the health of all.

The DentaQuest Foundation mission is: To Improve the Oral Health of All. As a national foundation dedicated to oral health systems improvements that are equitable, just, and integrated within the overall support of health and well-being, the DentaQuest Foundation focuses on the role policy, financing, care, and community systems play in the fulfillment of our mission.



Learning from the successes listed above, we know that in order to achieve the change we seek, we need an oral health movement, one that is connected, aligned, and mobilized to make oral health a priority for all. We know that the movement must be built on underlying values that galvanize us to pursue a common vision together—values like health equity (the same opportunity to be healthy for each one of us) where health is defined as overall physical, mental, and oral health, the reduction and elimination of an entirely preventable disease that is as prevalent as any other physical ailment one can suffer. Furthermore, we know that the movement must be guided by leaders who understand and embrace the complexities of the rapidly changing world we live in today.

We want to partner with you. It is going to take us all, working together, to get where we hope to go. We are committed to building engaged, collaborative, authentic relationships, and providing tools and resources from across all of our partnerships to support you as a part of the national oral health movement. For more information about the DentaQuest Foundation, the thinking that guides our strategy, and the work we're aware of that is occurring across oral health systems, please explore our work at [dentaquestfoundation.org](http://dentaquestfoundation.org).