

Reducing Barriers to Dental Care

Top Ten Solutions

North Dakota Dental Association

1. Expand and support the state Seal! ND school sealant program with grant funding to serve more low-income children and add Medicaid-supported case management to direct high-risk patients into dental homes to save treatment costs.
2. Expand and support the non-profit dental safety-net clinics through public-private partnerships, dentist recruitment with marketing and loan repayment, and innovative outreach to high-need areas and populations in the state.
3. Support the North Dakota Dental Foundation to improve oral health:
 - Reduce barriers to care
 - Prevention of dental disease
 - Improve education of the dental workforce
4. Improve dental Medicaid and maintain adequate network of dentists:
 - Maintain adequate Medicaid fee reimbursement
 - Form an active Medicaid Dental Advisory Committee to work with ND Department of Human Services
 - Reduce paperwork
 - Dentist recruitment and education programs (Take Five More)
5. Utilize dental hygienists and dental assistants to their maximum level of education through outreach collaborative practice and training of expanded restorative functions
6. Develop a volunteer/contracted network of credentialed dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants to serve in Indian Health Service and non-profit clinics
7. Engage with tribal communities to improve Indian Health Service dentistry, maximize prevention, reduce credentialing barriers and facilitate contracting with the local dental communities.
8. Establish outreach programs in long-term care facilities in partnership with the Oral Health Program, State Department of Health.
9. Support and strengthen the Oral Health Coalition (<http://www.ndohc.org>) to collaboratively identify problems and solutions to reduce barriers to care.
10. Coordinate and facilitate the development of dental assisting training programs in western North Dakota to address severe shortages of dental assistants in that part of the state.