As the Oral Health Foundation, we have a long history of community action.

As the DentaQuest Foundation, we have a vision for a future of oral health for all.
America Needs to Change the Way It Thinks About Oral Health

U.S. Surgeon General’s National Call to Action, 2003

We consider the National Call to Action a “map” to guide efforts on improving oral health in five areas:

- **Change perceptions of oral health** among the general public, policymakers and health providers.

- **Replicate effective programs and proven efforts** to reduce disease and disparity, increase access, and improve oral health literacy.

- **Build the science base** to transform our knowledge of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral disease, especially for those in the poorest health or at greatest risk.

- **Increase the diversity, capacity, and flexibility of the oral health workforce** to eliminate disparities and encourage local solutions and culturally competent messages.

- **Increase collaborations** and community-based, cross-disciplinary, culturally sensitive partnerships between public and private practitioners, and federal and state government in programs for improved oral health across the nation.

As our Foundation looks forward, we see great opportunity to bring about enduring progress in improving oral health. Beginning in 2009, the Foundation is expanding its work area to include oral health improvement in communities of need in the United States, in addition to our work in Massachusetts, which has been and will continue to be our “home base.”

Our Foundation was formed in 2000, a time when the importance of oral health was gaining prominence at the national and state level. The United States Surgeon General had issued a report, *Oral Health in America*, in which he argued that a “silent epidemic of oral diseases is affecting our most vulnerable citizens – poor children, the elderly and many members of racial and ethnic minority groups.”

Our Foundation focuses on three priorities from the United States Surgeon General’s 2003 Call to Action to: change perceptions about oral health and disease; promote models of effective care; and cultivate public-private partnerships to improve the oral health of those who suffer disproportionately from oral diseases. From 2000 to 2008, we provided $17 million in grant funding toward programs that support these priorities.

Over nine years of work as a philanthropy solely focused on oral health, we’ve tested many strategies. Our grants increased the number of communities with good access to oral health services, expanded the oral health safety net through private-public funding partnerships, increased public and legislative awareness of the importance of oral health, and engaged nontraditional players to include oral health in their work. We found that when multiple strategies work in tandem, the impact is far reaching and more likely to be sustained.

**As the DentaQuest Foundation, we now work as part of the DentaQuest national oral health enterprise whose sole mission is improving oral health.**

Working together, we can be a more powerful advocate for improving oral health.

We invite you to learn about the strategies our grantees are using to bring change to their communities. It is our hope that these successes are the spark of inspiration for others who are starting on their journey to change the oral health of their communities.

The DentaQuest Foundation is committing its experience, knowledge, and energies to increase awareness of oral health needs, to support the solutions crafted by local communities, and to provide the unifying vision that keeps us all focused on optimal oral health.

Ralph Fuccillo
President, DentaQuest Foundation

Chester W. Douglass
Chairman of the Board, DentaQuest Foundation
EDUCATE
Getting to change starts with awareness.

Health Care for All
Watch Your Mouth Campaign
The Foundation began funding Watch Your Mouth, an oral health awareness campaign, in 2005 to help the general public, health providers, and lawmakers understand the consequences of poor oral health and its connection to overall health.

Oral health awareness leads to a more informed general public and helps create a climate where legislators feel supported in promoting oral health solutions for communities and the whole state. Today, advocates and key stakeholders use the Watch Your Mouth messages in hearings, public forums and discussions, letters to the editor, and advertorials. Over the years, the understanding of and support for oral health has grown across the state. In the most recent Watch Your Mouth annual survey, Massachusetts residents said, “improving kids’ oral health” is an “extremely high priority.” Residents also supported health-focused policy solutions. Policy changes that took place in the past year include continued funding for oral health coverage for children under Medicaid and CHIP and making fluoride protection available to all children through their medical visits.

INTEGRATE
Getting to change means integrating oral health into other programs.

Massachusetts Head Start Association
A grant from the Foundation to the Massachusetts Head Start Association is tackling the twin challenges of access and education. Head Start administrators and teachers throughout the region are receiving training on oral disease and prevention to educate staff, the children, and their families. At the same time, in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the Consortium is reaching out to private practice dentists to make sure that every child in a Massachusetts Head Start program has access to a dental home, which may be a community health center, a dental clinic, mobile/portable dental providers, and/or a private practice dental office. Today, Head Start is a powerful portal of entry to oral health services for the entire family.

Since 2002, the Massachusetts Head Start Association had been working with the Region 1 (New England) Office of Head Start, the MA Department of Public Health (DPH), and other stakeholders to find a way to connect young children (birth to five) in their programs, many of whom were at risk for early childhood caries, with a “dental home.” A dental home provides comprehensive dental care from early risk assessment to preventive treatment services through a family-centered, coordinated system of care. In 2007, the Association joined with area dental colleges, the state oral health office, community and mobile dental programs, and the Massachusetts Dental Society to form the Massachusetts Early Childhood Oral Health Consortium. Their goal is a systems solution that benefits Head Start children and their families in all 30 programs in the state.
INNOVATE
Getting to change means rethinking what works...to make it even better.

**Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program**

How does an individual maintain good oral hygiene when home is “the street”?

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) has provided dental services and oral surgery to homeless men, women, and families at city shelters since 1985. In 2008, BHCHP consolidated medical and dental services under one roof in the heart of its service area to better serve its patrons, many of whom suffer from serious and chronic diseases. Foundation funding made possible a five-chair state-of-the-art dental clinic. As BHCHP staff earns trust from successful dental experiences, homeless patrons are more willing to return for other health services, gently easing into comprehensive and coordinated health care.

Building and strengthening safety net dental clinics, like the one at BHCHP one by one, has been a core piece of Foundation grant making. A 2008 grant to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers is laying the groundwork for change on a systemwide scale. Foundation funding establishes core oral health leadership to advocate for dental services at more than 50 community health centers across the state. This change demonstrates the Foundation’s strategy of investing in a vision that facilitates sustainable and coordinated services not just in individual community health centers, but throughout the state.

Grants from the Foundation are tackling the twin challenges of access and prevention for Head Start (above) and Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (background).
ACTIVATE

Getting to change means shifting from care in crisis to prevention.

Hilltown Gator Grins

The plight of families living in the hill towns of the Gateway Regional School District illustrates the challenges of bringing affordable, accessible dental care to rural communities. Rural areas are often classified as medically underserved populations and health professional shortage areas. The Hilltown Community Health Centers serve a 600-square-mile area, with no private dentists. Since the daily commute of most adults in all seven Gateway District towns exceeds the state average, some families are only able to seek dental services when in crisis. The challenge for the Hilltown Community Health Centers, school district officials and nurses, and parents was to shift the dynamic from crisis to prevention. So, if some children could not get to the dentist, the dentist would come to them.

The result is Gator Grins, a portable dental program that makes screenings, cleanings, sealants, and fillings available to all students at the schools. Children who need more extensive dental work can be bussed to the health center’s dental clinic during the school day, at no charge. Foundation grants helped the group plan and coordinate this program and purchase the portable equipment for Gator Grins.

Gator Grins shows what is possible when a community rallies behind oral health as a critical issue and takes action. School-based dental programs are an essential safety net for families who have difficulty finding or getting to care and an effective prevention-focused strategy to eliminate crises.
COLLABORATE
Getting to change means moving from individual programs to statewide solutions.

Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition
In January 2008, the Catalyst Institute* released The Oral Health of Massachusetts Children. This survey revealed that one out of ten black, Hispanic, and low-income children in the third grade suffers from pain in his/her teeth and mouth, and that twice as many third-grade children from low-income families have experienced dental decay compared to children from higher-income families. The data inspired a call to action for oral health stakeholders to pool their formidable resources to tackle oral health in the state.

In June 2008, more than 200 oral health advocates gathered at a statewide summit to share ideas for reducing the incidence of dental disease among residents. From this gathering emerged the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition. The active engagement of these policymakers, practitioners, program directors, and legislators is creating a climate for change. The coalition is currently at work on a comprehensive statewide oral health action plan that will guide the work of the oral health community in subsequent years to eliminate barriers, increase access to care, and improve oral health for all Massachusetts residents.

*Now the DentaQuest Institute.

ADVOCATE
Getting to change means inspiring others to work for optimal oral health.

National Oral Health Funders Policy Group
Nine years of work as a philanthropy solely focused on oral health makes the DentaQuest Foundation a valuable resource to others who wish to incorporate oral health into their programming and solutions. For the past several years, the Foundation has coordinated a National Oral Health Funders Policy Group, an unofficial gathering of foundations committed to policy reform in the oral health arena. Participants have found this a valuable way to advance thinking about best practices for successful programs and policy work in their service regions. As awareness grows, so do opportunities for new public and private partners to get involved in the kind of systems change that leads to better oral health in the community and at the policy level.

Foundation support gives communities the ability to engage in the collaborative work of building local, regional, and statewide solutions that address critical needs.
**REDUCE ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES**

The Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Inc. 2008 grant of $292,198, led to a five-chair dental clinic at the Program’s new comprehensive Jean Yawkey Place medical facility. For men and women with no permanent address, this clinic is a medical and dental home.

**EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION**

Codman Square Health Center, Boston, received grant funds of $94,180 to add and update dental equipment at this busy city clinic.

The Community Health Connections of Fitchburg’s ACTION Health Services’ Caring for Kids received $105,763 for a school-based dental program offering exams, cleanings, sealants, and fluoride varnishes for children in grades K–12 within thirty-six schools and six communities.

The Community Health Connections of Winchendon’s ACTION Health Services mobile dental van’s grant of $20,510 upgrades dental equipment commonly used for patients who are pregnant women and young children, and expands prevention programming to include education on oral and overall health, consultations, case management, and assistance in applying for insurance.

In May, 2009, when Fenway Community Health Center, Boston completes a new 10-story 100,000-sq.-ft. facility, it will bring together medical services from three sites under one roof. A Foundation grant of $228,470 is outfitting the oral health clinic with six dental chairs, enabling the health center to expand services to low-income children. The Fenway Community Health Center, which targets low-income children and families, people with HIV, and elders, will be the largest health center in the nation to focus on the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community.

Health First Family Health Center received $100,000 to increase access to comprehensive oral health care for children in Fall River public schools, summer camps, daycare centers, and the health center.

Hillcrest Educational Centers, Pittsfield will use its grant of $47,633 to add specialized equipment, expanding access to dental services to MassHealth patients.

Hilltown Community Health Centers, Inc. of Worthington and Huntington has the only dental practice in Hampshire County, an area in Western Massachusetts spanning more than 600 square miles and the only one accepting Medicaid patients in an even larger geographic area. A grant of $56,397 will add clinical equipment, expanding needed services.

Lazarus House Ministries received $114,648 for support of the capacity expansion for St. Luke’s Dental Clinic in Lawrence, the only dental clinic in the area serving adults on Medicaid.

The dental clinic at the Lynn Community Health, Inc., Lynn, received a grant of $173,299 to replace broken equipment essential to the Center’s ability to maintain the high volume and quality of services provided in Lynn.

Lynn Community Health, Inc. was awarded $193,311 to upgrade its practice and business management systems, enabling the clinic to expand services in ways that better address the oral health needs of the Lynn community.

In April, 2008, Martha’s Vineyard Hospital reopened a two-chair dental clinic that had been closed for four years. A grant of $12,559 will be used to purchase new clinical equipment. The clinic serves Dukes County, a health provider shortage area (dentistry and primary care health services) and is the only dental clinic on the island accepting MassHealth.

Tufts Oral Health Across the Commonwealth received $186,286 to add sealants to the primary prevention services offered by the Tufts mobile program for children and special needs populations in Boston, Lowell, and Hampden County, Massachusetts. They are engaging dentists in these communities to become the ongoing sites for regular, comprehensive dental care for the patients insured by MassHealth (Medicaid).
Whittier Street Health Center received $79,563 to provide oral health prevention and disease management to the uninsured and underinsured, and patients living with HIV/AIDS in the City of Boston.

A grant of $108,843 will enable the Whittier Street Health Center, Roxbury to convert non-clinical space into an additional dental suite. The expansion will decrease wait times and ultimately better serve the oral health needs of the community.

**CHANGE PERCEPTIONS OF ORAL HEALTH**

Health Care for All received $500,000 for continued support of the Watch Your Mouth campaign.

**ENHANCE EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE**

The Boston Public Health Commission was awarded $56,110 to support the Office of Oral Health in filling gaps in services available for populations in need within the City of Boston.

Massachusetts Coalition of School-based Health Centers received $176,023 to expand training and technical assistance to school-based health centers that are adding or increasing oral health services.

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers’ award of $50,017 will be used to increase community health workers’ knowledge and resources to reduce disparities and inequities in oral health.

Massachusetts Head Start Association received $178,045 for continued support of the Massachusetts Early Childhood Oral Health Consortium.

Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers’ $200,000 grant will support the development and coordination of enhancements in the quality and efficiency of dental services in community health centers across the Commonwealth.

The University of Massachusetts Memorial Foundation $23,200 grant will be used to prepare medical providers serving children enrolled in MassHealth to conduct oral health risk assessments, apply fluoride varnish, and deliver anticipatory guidance, expanding the number of individuals able to offer preventive oral health information and early intervention for children.

**COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO ORAL HEALTH CRISIS**

Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition (www.massoralhealth.org). Foundation support led to the organization of this statewide group of policy-makers, practitioners, and program directors, which has dedicated itself to writing a comprehensive Oral Health Action Plan aimed at eliminating barriers and increasing access to care for all residents.

Health Care Options will use its $56,914 grant to guide the Elder Dental Program to sustainability. This program provides elders with links to oral-health-related resources in their neighborhoods.

Hilltown Community Health Centers received $52,328 for continued support of Gator Grins dental outreach within the Gateway Regional School District, which provides a “dental home” for students at their school.

Island Health, Inc. received $124,258 for continued support of Vineyard Smiles, which provides access, education, prevention, and disease management services to children without a “dental home” in Dukes County.

Northeast Center for Healthy Communities received $27,817 for continued support of the Lawrence Oral Health Initiative, a community effort to establish and sustain a comprehensive, integrated system of culturally competent care for all the residents of Lawrence, regardless of age, insurance status, or economic resources.

The Tri-County Coalition of Oral Health Excellence received $107,900 to increase access to affordable emergency, preventive, and restorative care for residents of Cape Cod and the Islands, a dental professional shortage area.
We start our work in 2009 as the DentaQuest Foundation (formerly Oral Health Foundation). This change links us with the DentaQuest family of oral health companies who share a common mission of improving oral health through administration of quality dental benefit plans, evidence-based research that can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of oral health care delivery systems (DentaQuest Institute, formerly the Catalyst Institute), and support of prevention, public awareness, and collaborative efforts for optimal oral health (DentaQuest Foundation).

**Board of Directors**

**Chairman**
Chester W. Douglass, DMD, PhD
Professor, Oral Health Policy at Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Professor, Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health

**Vice Chair**
Marylou Sudders, ACSW
President, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)

**H. D. Cox, MSW**
Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Boston University School of Public Health

**Fay Donohue**
President and CEO, Dental Service of Massachusetts

**Neil B. Epstein, DMD, MA**
Pediatric Dentist, Retired

**Ralph Fuccillo**
President, DentaQuest Foundation

**Shepard Goldstein, DMD**
Endodontist in private practice

**Douglas B. Harding, MBA**
Chief Administrative Officer, Lahey Clinic, retired

**Roderick K. King, MD**
Instructor, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Senior Faculty, Massachusetts General Hospital Disparities Solutions Center; Inaugural Fellow, Institute of Medicine; Pediatrician, Boston, MA

**Clare D. McGorrian, Esq.**
Attorney in Private Practice, Health Law Counsel and Consulting

**Michael Nacey, Esq.**
President, Weston Partners

**Shannon P. O’Brien**
Former Massachusetts State Treasurer

**Scott F. O’Gorman**
Chief Financial Officer, Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan

---

**Foundation Staff**

**President**
Ralph Fuccillo
rfuccillo@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Director of Dental Policy**
Dr. Michael Monopoli
mmonopoli@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Program Manager**
Eileen Alvarez
ealvarez@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Executive Assistant**
Brenda Cocuzzo
bcocuzzo@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Senior Program Officer**
Judith Foley
jfoley@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Grant Management Associate**
Brenda Lavasta
blavasta@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Coalition Coordinator**
Biyi Ogunjimi
bogunjimi@DentaQuestFoundation.org

**Foundation Communications**
Mary Ann Kozlowski
mkozlowski@greatdentalplans.com
JOIN US!

Are you part of a community, regional, or statewide effort to improve oral health? We want to hear from you. Call us. E-mail us. Visit our Web site (DentaQuestFoundation.org) and join our community. Let us know about you and your programs and goals so we can work together. The most dramatic and enduring results begin and end with collaboration.

DentaQuest Foundation
465 Medford Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02129-1454
(617) 886-1700
info@dentaquestfoundation.org
www.dentaquestfoundation.org