



Develop and Launch a State Oral Health Plan

To Improve the Health of Kentucky Kids and Families

Good oral health is vital for children’s success and overall health, both now and in the future. Unfortunately, Kentucky kids and families are not receiving the care they need. In the recent Delta Dental of Kentucky Making Smiles Happen® children’s oral health study, approximately 50 percent of the children screened needed early or immediate dental care, and 40 percent of them had untreated cavities.

A state oral health plan would unite stakeholders—such as oral health providers, health departments, and schools—and help them coordinate their actions to improve the oral health of all Kentuckians, especially children. Kentucky has not had a state oral health plan in more than 10 years, while 21 other states have recently updated their plans. After the completion of the Delta Dental of Kentucky Making Smiles Happen study, Kentucky is primed to develop and begin work on our own plan.

Implement a state oral health plan to:

- Assess the current state of oral health across Kentucky
- Elevate policies to improve oral health
- Increase prevention efforts, such as school-based sealant programs and public education campaigns, and access to treatment
- Develop and maintain a strong oral health workforce, especially in rural areas
- Amplify resources through strategic partnerships and initiatives

Blueprint for Kentucky’s Children Solution:

Prioritize the oral health of Kentucky kids, both now and in the future, with coordinated efforts driven by a regularly updated state oral health plan.

