

New Mexicans Deserve Access to Quality, Affordable Dental Care

Community Driven. Patient Centered.



New Mexico has an oral health crisis.

Almost **900,000 New Mexicans live in areas without enough dentists** and **over a quarter of elementary school children have untreated tooth decay**. Everyone deserves quality, affordable dental care in their community and nobody should have to live in pain. Too many New Mexicans lack access to dental care, but dental therapists can help.

Dental therapists are highly-trained professionals who work as a part of the dental team to expand access to care.

- Dental therapists **offer routine and preventive care**, such as filling simple cavities.
- The care and services dental therapists provide complement the work of dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants, **increasing the productivity and reach of the whole dental care team**.
- Dental therapists are **supervised by dentists** and, by employing them, **dentists can expand the reach of their practices**, whether by extending their office hours, creating a remote office in an under-served area, or by offering dental therapists' services in community settings like schools and nursing homes.
- By employing dental therapists, **community health centers can stretch their limited budgets to treat more patients**.
- Dental therapy education programs are **accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)**, the same body that approves training programs for dentists.

Dental therapists will create jobs in our communities.

- Dental therapists can be **trained in local colleges**, providing opportunities for a high school graduate to attain a specialized degree and a well-paying job while also allowing them to **live and work in their own community**.
- Conservative estimates suggest that dental therapists in New Mexico will make a **starting salary of around \$60,000**.
- Allowing dentists to hire dental therapists **increases the productivity of the whole dental team**. With dental therapists doing some routine procedures, dentists can focus on providing more complex care to patients. Dentists who have hired dental therapists in other states have been able to **grow their practices and generate more revenue**.

New Mexico can meet its oral health needs and create well-paying jobs—the time for dental therapists is now!

Make dental care accessible for everyone.

Support dental therapists.

To learn more and join the campaign, go to www.NMdentaltherapists.org.

Statewide Coalition of Endorsers

NM State Legislative Health & Human Services Committee – Endorsed dental therapist legislation (Nov '12, Dec'13, July'14). and Indian Affairs Committee (Sept'14)

AARP New Mexico

Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board (AAIHB)

Alta Mira Family Services, Inc.

Americans for Indian Opportunity

Center for Civic Policy

Center for Native American Youth

Centro Sávila

Concilio CDS, Inc. – Las Cruces

Dental Care in Your Home, Inc.

Des Moines School Health Advisory Council

Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council

Elev8 NM

El Pueblo Health Services - Bernalillo

Family Promise of ABQ

Health Action NM

Interfaith Worker Justice

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of New Mexico

Native American Professional Parent Resources, Inc. (NAPPR)

Native Health Initiative

Navajo Nation – wants dental therapists in their community

Nizhoni Smiles Dental Clinic – Shiprock

Northern New Mexico College – Española

NM Alliance for Retired Americans

NM Alliance for School-Based Health Care

NM Association of Counties

NM American Federation of Teachers Retirees

NM Center on Law & Poverty

NM Conference of Churches

NM Dental Hygienists' Association

NM Health Resources

NM Intertribal Community Services Council (NMITCC)

NM League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

NM Public Health Association (NMPHA)

NM Telehealth Alliance

NM Voices for Children

OLE NM

Place Matters

Pueblo of Kewa/Santo Domingo Health Board - wants dental therapists in their community.

Pueblo of Tesuque

RESULTS - Santa Fe

Rio Arriba Community Health Council

Rio Arriba County Health & Human Services

Rio Grande Foundation

Santa Fe Community College

Santa Fe County

Southwest Women's Law Center

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI)

Ten Southern Pueblo Governors Association

Tierra del Sol – Las Cruces

Union County Network wants dental therapists in their community – Clayton

Union County General Hospital

Union County Health Alliance

Women's Intercultural Center – Anthony

YDI-Elev8 (Youth Devlp. Inc.)

William H. Johnson, Jr., Fmr. NM Cabinet Secretary for Human Services Dept.

Alfredo Vigil, MD FAAP, Fmr. NM Cabinet Secretary for Health & Human Services – Taos

Lionel Candelaria, DDS, OMFS - ABQ

Jeremiah Dye, DDS – First Choice Dental Director (FQHC)- ABQ

Davis Gauntt, DDS –NM Smiles mobile dental clinic

Bob Giannini, DDS – Fmr. NM Dental Board Chair, ABQ

Dale Jenkins, DDS – La Familia Dental Director (FQHC) - Santa Fe

Peter Jensen DDS, MS, MPH– Former Program Director, UNM Dental Residency Program

Patricio Larragoite, DDS – Cochiti, Santa Fe

Bill Niendorff, DDS - ABQ

Howard Rhoads, DDS – Artesia

Ronald J. Romero, DDS, Fmr. NM Dept. of Health Dental Director, Private practice dentist – Santa Fe

Arturo Siñeros, DDS – El Centro Family Health (FQHC) – Española, Peñasco, Las Vegas

Esmael Valdez, DDS – Las Vegas

Javier Aceves, MD, Pediatrician - ABQ

Harris Silver, MD

William H. Wiese, MD, MPH, Ret. UNM faculty; Fmr. NM DOH Public Health Division Director