Apple Tree Dental
Multiple locations throughout Minnesota and California

Program Overview

The mission of Apple Tree Dental (Apple Tree) is to improve the oral health of all people, including those with special access needs who face barriers to care. The staff works to achieve its mission by delivering education, prevention, and restorative dental services to vulnerable populations and by providing leadership and innovation to transform the health care system. Services are provided at regional clinics, called Centers for Dental Health, which also serve as care coordination centers for its innovative on-site delivery system. On-site care is provided year-round at more than 130 community sites including long-term care and assisted living facilities, group homes, Head Start centers, and schools.

Program History and Development

Apple Tree was established as a nonprofit in 1985 to address the unmet dental needs of individuals in Minnesota. It now operates six Centers for Dental Health in Minnesota and two in the San Francisco Bay area. Apple Tree serves people of all ages and abilities in urban and rural areas. Apple Tree's on-site services are delivered using customized mobile dental offices at a variety of community sites within an hour radius of each Center for Dental Health. Its on-site care programs operate in tandem with the regional Centers for Dental Health to create multiple dental access points. A cloud-based Electronic Health Record (EHR) supports care coordination among all sites and community partners.

Program Sustainability

- In 2014, Apple Tree received funding from many grantors including: the Minnesota Department of Health, Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic Fund, Bremer Foundation, Disabled American Veterans Charitable Trust, South Country Health Alliance, Burlingame Rotary, Minnesota Dental Association, and Medica Foundation.
- The majority of the funding comes from earned revenue from dental services, but is supplemented with federal, state, and local foundation grants, corporate support, and individual donations.
- The annual budget for Apple Tree's Minnesota Centers for Dental Health in 2015 was $16.1 million.
- In 2015, this program was staffed by more than 200 employees, including 42 dentists, six advanced/dental therapists, 35 dental hygienists, 63 dental assistants, and seven lab technicians.

Program Impact

- In 2015, Apple Tree's Minnesota and California programs combined provided 94,575 visits and screenings to 32,654 individuals including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities and special needs. In total, the dental care provided in 2015 was worth over $27 million.
- To date, Apple Tree has delivered more than one million dental visits and screenings, valued at over $188 million. A significant portion of this care has been provided to nursing facility residents and other older adults.
- According to an August 2015 article in the California Dental Association Journal, "Apple Tree's nonprofit status and delivery model keep costs low and allow fundraising efforts to help fill the uncompensated care gap. Innovative collaborative practices allow services to be provided in shared spaces, with shared staffing leveraging community resources and eliminating transportation barriers."
- Apple Tree has played a key role in important dental access legislation in Minnesota and has been actively involved in advocacy through local, statewide, and national coalitions.
- Three organizations, Mobile Dentistry (NC), Access Dental Care (NC), and Operation Smile (LA), have collaborated with Apple Tree to successfully replicate elements of its model.
- This program was cited in the Surgeon General's Call to Action and was awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award, the Minnesota Community Action Association's Best Practices Award, and the American Dental Association Geriatric Dental Health Award.

Apple Tree Dental
Multiple locations throughout Minnesota and California

Program Features

Note: A checked box below indicates an existing program feature.

Age
- ☒ 0-17 (Children and Youth)
- ☒ 18-60 (Adult)
- ☒ 60+ (Older Adult)

Specific Populations
- ☒ Homeless individuals
- ☒ Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- ☒ Individuals with physical disabilities
- ☒ Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions
- ☒ Individuals with low income
- ☒ Individuals with no dental insurance
- ☒ Individuals with Medicaid
- ☒ Veterans
- ☒ Refugees/immigrants

Geography
- ☒ Rural
- ☒ Urban

Service Delivery Setting
- ☒ Hospital
- ☐ Dental school
- ☒ Community/safety net clinic
- ☒ Private dental office
- ☒ Long-term care facility
- ☒ Senior center/community center
- ☐ Private residence
- ☐ Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot
- ☐ Church
- ☒ School
- ☐ Homeless shelter
- ☐ Public housing

Service Delivery Model
- ☒ Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting)
- ☒ Mobile-portable model
- ☒ Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination)
- ☒ Virtual model (e.g. telehealth)
- ☐ Event-based model
- ☐ Outreach and education model

Staffing
- ☒ Dentist
- ☒ Dental hygienist
- ☒ Dental therapist
- ☒ Dental assistant
- ☒ Dental/dental hygiene students
- ☒ Nursing staff
- ☐ Community health workers
- ☒ Non-dental clinical staff
- ☒ Non-clinical staff

Payment for Care
- ☒ Medicaid
- ☒ No charge to client
- ☒ Sliding fee scale
- ☒ Out of pocket
- ☒ Commercial dental insurance

Program Funding
- ☒ Foundation/organization grant
- ☒ Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal)
- ☒ Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)

Dental and Oral Health Services
- ☒ Emergency services
- ☒ Basic services
  - ☒ Screenings
  - ☒ Cleanings
  - ☒ Fluoride varnish
  - ☒ Sealants
  - ☒ X-rays
- ☒ Comprehensive services
  - ☒ Fillings
  - ☒ Scaling/root planing
  - ☒ Extractions
  - ☒ Oral surgery
  - ☒ Root canals
  - ☒ Dentures, partials, relines, repairs
  - ☒ Crowns
  - ☒ Bridges
  - ☐ Orthodontics

Other Program Services
- ☒ Referrals to dental and oral health services
- ☒ Care coordination/care management
- ☒ Patient education
- ☒ Caregiver education
- ☒ Provider education
- ☒ Advocacy/coalition

Integration with Services
- ☒ Medical services
- ☒ Behavioral health services
- ☐ Vision services
- ☒ Pharmacy services
- ☒ Transportation services
- ☒ Translation services
- ☒ Nutrition services

This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016