



## Dientes Community Dental Santa Cruz County, California

### Program Overview

Dientes Community Dental delivers affordable dental services to underserved populations of all ages in Santa Cruz County, California. The program works to combat two primary barriers to care – cost and transportation – by operating mobile facilities that visit schools, skilled nursing facilities, Head Start, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) centers in Santa Cruz County. The program’s goal is to make prevention more common than treatment.

### Program History and Development



Dientes Community Dental was started in 1992 by a small group of local private dentists who wanted to provide care to low income, underserved populations. The dentists provided services at three different locations until 2003, when they consolidated into one clinic. Since then, the program has expanded services to additional clinics and dental centers. In

2014, they opened a pediatric wing in one of the existing clinics to consolidate children’s services in one area and expand the number of chairs available for adults.

Dientes manages two programs to reach its target population. In 2009, it started an outreach program that provides oral health education and basic restorative services for underserved Santa Cruz County, California residents at a variety of locations in the county. The second program, Dientes Cares, focuses on financial assistance to help make dental care affordable for all.

### Program Sustainability

- Funding for Dientes Community Dental is split between ongoing fee-for-service payments, Medicaid reimbursements, long-term grants, corporate and individual donations, and financial support from community organizations.
- This program provides services on a sliding fee scale, and is one of only two provider organizations in Santa Cruz County, California that offers this payment option for low-income individuals.

### Program Impact

- In 2014, Dientes provided 22,401 dental visits to 7,849 individuals, 722 of whom were older adults and 96 percent of whom lived at or below the federal poverty level.
- Annual satisfaction surveys have demonstrated high client satisfaction with Dientes, as measured by 99 percent of all recipients rating their experience with the program as “excellent” or “good.”

### Program Contact Information

Program Website: <http://dientes.org/about/>



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### Program Features

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

Age	Service Delivery Model	Dental and Oral Health Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0-17 (Children and Youth) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18-60 (Adult) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60+ (Older Adult)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile-portable model <input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual model (e.g. telehealth) <input type="checkbox"/> Event-based model <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and education model	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screenings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fluoride varnish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sealants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X-rays <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fillings <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling/root planing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extractions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral surgery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Root canals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dentures, partials, relines, repairs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crowns <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontics
Specific Populations	Staffing	Other Program Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeless individuals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with physical disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with low income <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with no dental insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/immigrants	<input type="checkbox"/> Dentist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental hygienist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental therapist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Dental/dental hygiene students <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community health workers <input type="checkbox"/> Non-dental clinical staff <input type="checkbox"/> Non-clinical staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referrals to dental and oral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Care coordination/care management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caregiver education <input type="checkbox"/> Provider education <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/coalition
Geography	Payment for Care	Integration with Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> No charge to client <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sliding fee scale <input type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial dental insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical services <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Vision services <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy services <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Translation services <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services
Service Delivery Setting	Program Funding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dental school <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/safety net clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Private dental office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long-term care facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior center/community center <input type="checkbox"/> Private residence <input type="checkbox"/> Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation/organization grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)	

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