**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/](http://dientes.org/about/)
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### Program Features

#### 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

#### 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

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

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