



Elder Dental Program

Multiple locations throughout Massachusetts

Program Overview

The Elder Dental Program is a community-based nonprofit program dedicated to helping low-income older adults access quality dental care at reduced costs. To qualify for this program, adults must be over the age of 60, lack dental insurance, live in the program's service area, and have an annual income of up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Program History and Development



Dr. Donald Pierce with Massasoit Community College Dental Assisting students screening seniors in 2015 at the Attleboro Senior Center.

The Elder Dental Program was established in 2002 by two dentists to address a gap in oral health care available to low-income older adults. Individuals who are financially eligible are matched by the Elder Dental Program's manager to a participating dentist located in their geographic location. All appointments occur in the dentist's own dental office during regular office hours. Basic services are provided at the participating dentists' offices, and those who require more complex dental work will be referred to dental schools and oral health centers for restorative work. Eighteen communities in southern Massachusetts are now included in the program's area.

Free dental screening clinics are also held at senior centers for older adults, regardless of their financial status. The screenings include a dental examination and oral cancer screening. Dental hygienists and nutritionists are also available to discuss any concerns.

Program Sustainability

- In 2015, the Elder Dental Program was supported by: HarborOne, Bank of Canton, Walpole Cooperative Bank, and the Rotary Club of Attleboro and Taunton. Bristol Elder Services and the Norwood Council on Aging supported the Elder Dental Program for both 2015 and 2016. The Elder Dental Program is supported 100% by grant funding.
- Initial funders include DentaQuest, elder service agencies, and the Massachusetts Dental Society. The program provides services on a sliding fee scale.
- The annual budget of the Elder Dental Program for 2016 is \$31,801.

Program Impact

- The Elder Dental Program collects data on demographics, services provided, medical history, and client satisfaction.
- At each dental screening clinic, the program registers up to 57 older adults, ages 60 and over. To date, the Elder Dental Program has provided screenings to over 1,000 older adults since 2002.
- In 2015, the Elder Dental Program's participating dentists provided 329 procedures to 315 individuals. The monetary value of these services is \$234,000 in donated dental care.
- The Elder Dental Program's founding dentist was awarded the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation Difference Maker Award. The Elder Dental Program has also received the Home Care Alliance Innovative Showcase Award.

"More than three-quarters of older adults in Massachusetts don't have dental insurance...at the screening clinic we take time to talk with them and answer their questions."

- Dr. Donald Pierce, North Attleboro Dentist and Planning Committee Co-chair

Program Contact Information

Program Phone Number: 781-769-3710

Program Website: <http://www.communityvna.com/Services/ElderDentalProgram.aspx>



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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 type="checkbox"/> 0-17 (Children and Youth) <input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scaling/root planing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extractions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral surgery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Root canals <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures, partials, relines, repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Crowns <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontics
Specific Populations	Staffing	Other Program Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with physical disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with low income <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with no dental insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees/immigrants	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> No charge to client <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sliding fee scale <input type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial dental insurance	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Translation services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services
Service Delivery Setting	Program Funding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dental school <input type="checkbox"/> Community/safety net clinic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private dental office <input 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 type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation/ organization grant <input 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