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| Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series:  Request for Applications |
| Application Deadline: June 11, 2025 |
| *Made possible through support from CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.* |

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| KEY information | |
| Purpose | The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is inviting state Medicaid teams to apply for a bi-monthly, five-session learning series to strengthen oral health workforce strategies. The *Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series* will bring together subject matter experts who work in and with Medicaid agencies to share practical, scalable oral health workforce solutions that can increase access and utilization of services to improve member health. This initiative is made possible through support from CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. |
| RFA Release | May 14, 2025 |
| Applications Due | June 11, 2025, 5:00 pm ET |
| Selection Notification | End of June 2025 |
| Project Period | July 2025 – March 2026 |
| Eligibility | Medicaid agencies and their partners in all states, commonwealths, and territories |
| CHCS Contact | Maddie Steward, Senior Program Officer, [msteward@chcs.org](mailto:msteward@chcs.org) |

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| About the Center for Health Care Strategies The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is a policy design and implementation partner devoted to improving outcomes for people enrolled in Medicaid. CHCS supports partners across sectors and disciplines to make more effective, efficient, and equitable care possible for millions of people across the nation. For more information, visit [www.chcs.org](http://www.chcs.org/). About THE CAREQUEST INSTITUTE FOR ORAL HEALTH CareQuest Institute for Oral Health is a national nonprofit championing a more equitable future where every person can reach their full potential through excellent health. CareQuest Institute does this through their work in philanthropy, analytics and data insights, health transformation, policy and advocacy, and education as well as their leadership in dental benefits and innovation advancements. CareQuest Institute collaborates with thought leaders, health care providers, patients, and local, state, and federal stakeholders, to accelerate oral health care transformation and create a system designed for everyone. To learn more, visit [carequest.org](https://www.carequest.org/) and follow them on [X](https://twitter.com/CareQuestInst), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/carequest-institute/about), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CareQuestInstitute), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/carequestinstitute). |

# Background

The oral health workforce is critical to ensuring comprehensive care for Medicaid populations, yet significant challenges persist in expanding and optimizing this workforce. The [number](https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas) of Medicaid providers currently participating in the workforce is insufficient to meet community needs, resulting in critical access issues for individuals served by Medicaid. Earlier this year, with support from CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, CHCS interviewed oral health stakeholders across the U.S. — including state oral health officials, researchers, professional organizations, and other oral health experts — to identify workforce levers for improving access to essential oral health services for Medicaid members. Through these conversations, CHCS identified [several approaches](https://www.chcs.org/strategies-to-optimize-the-medicaid-oral-health-workforce/) Medicaid agencies and their partners can use to support a strong oral health workforce that more effectively serves Medicaid members.

The *Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series* will provide a forum for key decision-makers in Medicaid agencies and their partners, including any agencies, departments, health plans, school districts, and/or community and provider organizations interested in, or actively engaged in, strengthening the Medicaid oral health workforce to identify priorities and design policy [strategies](https://www.chcs.org/strategies-to-optimize-the-medicaid-oral-health-workforce/) for enhancing oral health workforce capacity in their state. These strategies include, but are not limited to: (1) expanding the oral health workforce by empowering providers to work at the top of their license to more comprehensively serve Medicaid members; (2) increasing awareness of Medicaid among dental providers; (3) improving the program’s coverage, benefits, and operations for providers and the communities served; (4) encouraging strategic collaboration and coordination of oral health priorities across a broad coalition of stakeholders to tackle related workforce issues; and (5) building a pipeline of engaged providers through creative solutions.

# Purpose

The *Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series* is designed to help Medicaid agencies and their partners understand best practices and exchange lessons related to oral health workforce policies and programs, ultimately assisting them to set and achieve their oral health workforce priorities. Participating states will learn from with experts and collaborate with peers to build knowledge on implementing oral health workforce strategies, with the goal of enhancing workforce capacity and improving care for Medicaid populations. CHCS seeks applicants actively implementing or planning initiatives to strengthen the Medicaid oral health workforce’s ability to better serve members.

# What Participants Can Expect

Accepted states will attend five bi-monthly meetings to learn best practices from subject matter experts and other stakeholders and connect with peers to share experiences. Meetings will cover topics including but not limited to: (1) expanding provider scope of practice; (2) medical-dental integration; (3) expanding services in non-traditional settings (e.g., schools, nursing homes); (4) leveraging inter- and intra-agency partnerships; and (4) strategies for supporting providers to practice at the top of their licensure. Sessions will be tailored to address participants’ priorities and experiences, equipping them with the knowledge to prioritize, align, and implement oral health workforce strategies that increase access and improve outcomes.

Participation will focus on fostering meaningful, real-time peer connection among states. The learning series meetings will provide a forum for participants to share priorities, exchange experiences, and brainstorm strategies for driving change. All activities are offered at no cost to participating teams.

# How to Apply

To apply, states must complete the following application and have the Dental Director, or equivalent,   
sign the statement of commitment. Please save the application as a PDF and **email it to Maddie Steward, CHCS Senior Program Officer, at** [**msteward@chcs.org**](mailto:msteward@chcs.org). Direct all questions to Maddie Steward.

Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series: Application

# General Information

## Primary Point of Contact

Please provide contact information for the state team’s **Primary Point of Contact**.

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| **Name** |  |
| **Title** |  |
| **State/Commonwealth/Territory** |  |
| **Email Address** |  |
| **Phone Number** |  |

## Key Team Members

Provide names, titles, and email addresses of additional team members. Applicants are encouraged to include key decision-making members from their Medicaid agency as well as any relevant agencies, departments, health plans, school districts, and/or community and provider organizations who are interested in, or actively engaged in, advancing the Medicaid oral health workforce. All teams should include at least one participant from the state’s Medicaid agency.

| **Name** | **Organization** | **Title** | **Email address** |
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## Signature of Support

Applicants must obtain a signature for participation from their state’s Dental Director or equivalent position. This signature indicates the Director’s willingness to support the participation of staff in the five virtual meetings.

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| **Name and Position:** |  | | |
| **Signature:** |  | **Date:** |  |

# Application Narrative

## Please describe recent or current initiatives your agency is pursuing regarding oral health workforce development.

*Include any results and/or next steps for listed initiative, if applicable.*

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## What are your top priorities for oral health workforce development within your Medicaid program?

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## **What outcomes do you hope to achieve from participating in the *Medicaid Oral Health Workforce Implementation Learning Series*?**

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## **Are there any specific tools, resources, or supports you would benefit from receiving?**

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## What challenges are you currently facing in efforts to enhance the Medicaid oral health workforce?

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## What topics related to the Medicaid oral health workforce are you most interested in delving into? *(check all that apply)*

Authorizing and/or expanding dental therapy

Interstate licensure compact

State oral health workforce strategic action planning

Services in non-traditional settings (e.g., schools, nursing homes, mobile clinics)

Teledentistry

Strengthening partnerships and bridging silos

Medical-dental integration

Expanding scope of practice for providers

Supporting dental education pathways

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| Other *(describe)*: |  |

*Please add any additional details regarding your selections:*

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