

AAPD 2018 LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

HRSA TITLE VII PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY APPROPRIATIONS



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS
THE BIG AUTHORITY on little teeth®

REQUEST: Provide FY 2019 funding of \$40.673 million for the HRSA Title VII Primary Care Dental Training Cluster and related oral health programs, with not less than \$12 million for Pediatric Dentistry Training programs including continuation of dental faculty loan repayment program awards under FY 2017 funding criteria.

Background. Pediatric dentistry training is vital to meeting the nation's oral health care needs. The two to three year pediatric dentistry residency program¹, completed after graduation from dental school, immerses the dentist in scientific study enhanced with clinical experience. This training is the dental counterpart to general pediatrics. The trainee learns advanced diagnostic and surgical procedures, along with:

- child psychology and behavior guidance;
- oral pathology;
- pharmacology related to the child;
- radiology;
- child development;
- management of oral-facial trauma;
- caring for patients with special health care needs; and
- sedation and general anesthesia.

Since children's oral health is an important part of overall health, pediatric dentists often work with pediatricians, other physicians, and dental specialists. Healthy children, as well as hospitalized and chronically ill children or children with disabilities, often benefit from a team approach. Access to dentists is critical for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) populations. By the nature of their training, pediatric dentists are able to provide comprehensive oral health care to children. Pediatric dentists treat a higher percentage of Medicaid and CHIP patients in their practices than any other type of dentist, and are especially successful with this population because of their advanced clinical training and expertise in behavior guidance. Pediatric dentists are the backbone of the pediatric oral health care delivery system, helping to ensure all children have access to high quality comprehensive dental services. Nearly 70 percent of pediatric dentists treat children enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP or both, which represent on average 25 percent of their patients. Almost all pediatric dentists care for patients with special needs. Pediatric dentists also provide a significant amount of charity care and care at a reduced rate.

The authority to fund pediatric dentistry residency training under Title VII was first enacted under the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998. This expanded the existing general dentistry training authority, providing start-up funds to either increase pediatric dentistry positions at existing programs or initiate new programs. Since FY 2000, approximately \$100 million has supported over 60 pediatric dentistry programs, including 10 new programs. Pediatric dentistry residency programs provide a significant amount of care to underserved populations. Two-thirds of the patients treated in these programs are Medicaid recipients. Mentally or physically disabled persons are also treated through these programs. Pediatric dental faculty train not only pediatric dentists but all general dentists.

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Title VII authority was expanded to create a primary care dental funding cluster under Section 748 of the Public Health Service Act. Authority was broadened to allow use of funds for faculty development, predoctoral training and faculty loan repayment. The latter initiative had long been advocated by the AAPD, because of the significant difficulties in recruiting qualified individuals to fill faculty positions. This is especially acute in pediatric dentistry.

Justification. A critical factor in recruiting and retaining dental school faculty from recent dental school or residency program graduates is the staggering student loan debt and income disparity with private practice. Almost 85 percent of dental students graduate with student loan debt, which averaged \$289,331 in 2017, and academic positions typically pay only one-third of what graduates can earn upon entering private practice.

Thanks to strong support from Congress, a new Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (DFLRP) grant cycle was initiated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2016 and FY 2017, in addition to the \$10 million provided for pediatric dentistry. Programs may support loan repayment contracts over five years to recruit and retain faculty. Full-time faculty members are eligible for repayment of 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 percent of their student loan balance (principal and interest) for each year of service.

Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FY 2017 awardees)

- Loma Linda University (Loma Linda, Calif.)
- Howard University (Washington, D.C.)
- Augusta University (Augusta, Ga.)
- Nicklaus Children's Hospital of Miami (Miami, Fl.)
- University of Illinois-Chicago (Chicago, Ill.)
- University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- University of Mississippi (Jackson, Miss.)
- Bronx-Lebanon Hospital (New York, N.Y.)
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- University of Tennessee (Memphis, Tenn.)

Thanks to favorable Congressional report language, \$884,000 in total was awarded. Each awardee program will administer the loan repayment and identify the individual recipient (s) of such funds. All 10 awardees met the preference for pediatric dental faculty. These were defined in HRSA's Notice of Funding Opportunity as individuals who have completed a pediatric dental residency, have an appointment in a division or department of pediatric dentistry, and who teach in the field of pediatric dentistry at either the predoctoral or postdoctoral residency level.

The program is already making a real impact in pediatric dentistry training as described below

Recipient profile

The University of Tennessee College of Dentistry has a rich heritage of alumni who became leaders in Pediatric Dentistry as well as organized dentistry. This traces back to faculty who were role models of service, commitment to the patient first and clinical excellence. The challenge going forward is replacing those icons. In 2016 the average age of the faculty in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry was 64 yrs. This is not unique to the University of Tennessee. Over time residents have been identified with teaching gifts and leadership skill; who would be interested in dental education if it were not for the mountain of student debt. The HRSA Dental Faculty Loan Repayment program has enabled the identification and recruitment of such a person in **Dr. Jennifer Fernandez**, who tells the following story:



"I graduated from the University of Tennessee's pediatric dental residency in 2016. While under the mentorship of Martha Wells and Larry Dormois I discovered an affinity for teaching, but due to the heavy burden of student debt I was forced into private practice. I moved away after graduation to work and due to life circumstances, found myself back in Memphis. The Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program allowed me to both enjoy a life of teaching and comfortably repay my student loans. Were it not for the faculty loan repayment half of my take home pay would go toward debt repayment, which would preclude the faculty position. The freedom it has given me to pursue this field of work is without measure, and for that I am truly grateful."

HRSA FY 2017 Grants for Predoctoral Pediatric Training in General Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

HRSA awarded new grants in FY 2017 focused on improving pediatric dental training opportunities in predoctoral (dental school) programs. The goal is to enhance clinical predoctoral dental and dental hygiene training focusing on children ages 0-5 to improve the oral health of vulnerable, underserved, and rural pediatric populations. HRSA allocated \$4.4 million for this competition, which includes a small childhood obesity prevention supplement. These are five-year awards, with up to \$300,000 available per grantee per year.

Grantee

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Western University of Health Sciences
Meharry Medical College
Nova Southeastern University
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois
Boston University
University of Michigan
Temple University
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Virginia Commonwealth University
University of Washington

State

Ala.
Calif.
Tenn.
Fla.
Hawaii
Ill.
Mass.
Mich.
Pa.
Pa.

Texas
Va.
Wash.

Pediatric Dentistry Title VII Grants – FY 2015 awardees (five year grants)

HRSA Title VII Pediatric Dentistry Grants - FY 2017 Funding Level		
Grantee Name	State	Amount
PREDOCTORAL – Pediatric Dentistry-focused or collaborative grants		
UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, SF	CA	\$200,197
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	NY	\$340,662
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	NY	\$346,164
POSTDOCTORAL – Pediatric Dentistry-focused or collaborative grants		
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES	CA	\$603,863
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	CT	\$10,461
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY.	FL	\$697,546
NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	FL	\$499,743
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO	IL	\$371,450
BOSTON UNIVERSITY	MA	\$516,096
TUFTS COLLEGE	MA	\$741,283
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA	NE	\$447,366
BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER	NY	\$736,318
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY	NY	\$747,949
NY CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORP.	NY	\$499,694
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER	NY	\$512,448
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	PA	\$473,537
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	TX	\$720,195
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY	VA	\$484,267
		TOTAL= \$8,949,239

¹Three year programs generally require additional masters' level research and often prepare trainees for careers in academic dentistry.

Profiles of Select FY 2015 Pediatric Dentistry Postdoctoral Grantees

Dentists and other health care providers who treat patients with **autism spectrum disorder (ASD)** require special training to understand the skills and techniques needed to care for this growing population. At **Nova Southeastern University (NSU) College of Dental Medicine** the grant will allow for the development of a curriculum addressing the transition of children and adolescents with ASD to adult dental care and aims to increase access to dental care for children and adolescents with special health care needs such as ASD. NSU currently has pediatric special needs dental clinics at NSU's Mailman Segal Center for Human Development in Davie, Florida, and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, and also operates a pediatric dental clinic at Kids in Distress in Fort Lauderdale.

In collaboration with Building Healthy Futures, an Omaha nonprofit that aims to improve health for underserved children and youth, the **University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Dentistry** has developed a plan to provide dental care to children in need right at their own schools. **The grant allows residents to go into ten Omaha Public Schools and provide restorative care using a portable dental unit.** UNMC will also be working with dental clinics at Charles Drew Health Center, One World and Creighton University along with their own pediatric clinic to help establish dental homes for these children. Previous Title VII grants allowed UNMC College of Dentistry to increase its off-site rotations to additional rural communities, and also train physicians about infant oral health while demonstrating the use of tele-dentistry services in rural physicians' offices. Title VII funding also led to a pediatric dentist opening a practice in the western half of state where there had never been a pediatric dentist.

Boston University School of Dental Medicine is using its funding to establish a team-based inter-professional pediatric dental care model for underserved children and children with special health care needs, partnering with primary care pediatricians. They are also creating an integrated 3 year combined residency training program in pediatric dentistry and dental public health.

Funding received by the **University of Pittsburgh** is supporting the expansion of the current residency program in pediatric dentistry that includes two multidisciplinary program tracks specializing in the care of patients in underserved rural settings and special needs populations. One track focuses on providing advanced dental care to the special needs community and the second focuses on dental public health policy and practices for children in the rural and underserved areas of northern Appalachia. The funding gives the pediatric dental residency program an opportunity for educating additional residents to be dually-trained and providing much needed dental services to the region's most vulnerable populations. Pitt's Dental School will expand its collaboration with the Department of Family Medicine, the Center for Patients with Special Needs and many regional and national community health partners to provide residents family-oriented, community-based training that emphasizes cultural competency.

The **Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry** grant is funding the development of a new interprofessional curriculum, provide funds for teledentistry equipment and expand the pediatric dental residency program at two clinical care sites. Pediatric dentistry residents will have the opportunity to participate in the VCU Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care's educational programs while providing dental care for children at various clinical sites. **Residents will provide care at the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU and the Piedmont Regional Dental Center, which is a safety net dental practice in Orange, Virginia.** The grant also covers the cost of dental technology equipment such as a digital X-ray and an intra-oral video camera. The new technology will enable pediatric dentistry residents to provide consultation services for children at rural sites without necessitating a trip to a dental office.