

ADHA Institute for Oral Health / Research Grant Review Program
Measuring Access to Care for Low-Income School Children by Dental Hygienists in States that Allow Direct Access to Dental Hygiene Services

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

Oral health is a critical component of general health and well being for all Americans. Professional oral health screening and services are necessary to assure that oral health is established and maintained. Many Americans are unable to obtain these routine services. Income and minority status, culture and ethnicity, level of education, availability of dental insurance, proximity to dental services and provider capacity all play a role in access to preventive and treatment services. With access to care at the forefront of the national oral health agenda, the Office of the Surgeon General has established a framework for action to include *oral health promotion, collaboration, disease prevention, removal of barriers to care, and the building and use of the sciences*. The ADHA Institute for Oral Health Research Grant Review Program recognizes limited access as a major contributing factor to the current unmet demand for public oral health care services affecting the American public.

The goal of this project is to measure access to oral health care services for low-income school children within school settings. Specifically, the project will address the role played by dental hygienists in states that allow unsupervised practice and will provide quantitative data regarding number of school children served and dental hygiene practitioner participation rate. The following provides a description of the ADHA Institute for Oral Health / Research Grant Review Program's Special Initiative: *Measuring Access to Care for Low-Income School Children by Dental Hygienists in States that Allow Direct Access to Dental Hygiene Services*

RFP Title: ***Measuring Access to Care for Low-Income School Children by Dental Hygienists in States that Allow Direct Access to Dental Hygiene Services***

Purchasing Department: ADHA Institute for Oral Health / Research Grant Review Program

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Contact Person: Executive Administrator

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The ADHA Institute for Oral Health / Research Grant Review Program requests applications from eligible participants to develop and implement a survey mechanism that measures oral health care services provided by dental hygienists to low-income school children in states that allow direct access to dental hygiene services. The general goal of this project is to obtain an objective measurement of the delivery of oral health care services by dental hygienists to an at-risk (e.g. low-income) segment of the population in a defined setting. The specific goals of this project are to:

1. obtain quantitative data that allows for the measurement of oral health services performed by dental hygienists within school settings; and
2. assess the outcome these services have on access to care for low-income children.

All proposed research must specifically address the role played by dental hygienists in states that allow direct access. The details of this grant program do not specify for applicants the number of states to be examined, the specific age range for children to be studied, or the determining factor for establishing low-income status.

Required variables and/or definitions:

- Number of clients served
- Participation rates of dental hygienists
- Types of services performed (e.g. sealants)
- School settings (e.g. K-12, Head Start, public, private)
- Ages of clients
- Outcome of services (e.g. how impact will be defined or measured)

Optional variables and/or definitions:

- Measurement of change in oral health status
- Measurement of change in oral health care knowledge and behaviors

Within this grant program, these items are specifically defined:

- Access to care: Availability of public access to preventive and restorative oral health care services.
- Direct access to dental hygiene services: For purposes of this document, direct access means that the dental hygienist can initiate treatment based on his or her assessment of patient needs without the specific authorization of a dentist, treat the patient without the presence of a dentist, and can maintain a provider-patient relationship.
- Dental hygienist: For the purposes of this document, a dental hygienist is a preventive oral health professional who has graduated from an accredited dental hygiene educational program in an institution of higher education and maintains a current dental hygiene license.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- An ADHA Institute Research Grant application must be completed and a proposal submitted according to the guidelines specified therein.
- Studies in progress that are similar to this RFP may be considered for funding as long as they meet the criteria for approval.
- Current members of the ADHA Institute Board of Directors, members of the ADHA Board of Trustees, ADHA employees, and ADHA consultants may not apply to the grant program. In addition, members of the Research Grant Review Committee and the ADHA Council on Research may not apply as the principal investigator, but may do so in another capacity (i.e. secondary investigator, mentor, etc.). However, they may not be involved in the review process for that proposal.

EXPECTED DURATION OF CONTRACT AND EXPENDITURES:

Initial Duration: One year

Renewal Options: This contract may be renewed, depending upon application resubmission and approval. However, this grant program is not designed to specifically provide for renewable projects.

Funding Specifications: Total funding will depend on final budget appropriations. Funds under this procurement will be awarded based upon the meeting of all listed requirements and approval of the ADHA Institute Board of Directors.

Maximum Obligation Amount: Contract will have a Maximum Obligation Amount not to exceed \$50,000.

ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES:

Allowable expense items include materials necessary to conduct the project. Specific administrative costs that can be identified with project activities may be included in the proposed budget (e.g., investigator reimbursement time, computer time, statistical consultation, secretarial support, research assistants). Travel and the purchase of equipment will be only funded in exceptional circumstances. The applicant is encouraged to petition the sponsoring institution to provide overhead costs as an in-kind contribution. *The ADHA Institute for Oral Health will fund overhead or indirect costs to a maximum of 15%.*

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS:

Researchers are entrusted with an essential role in assuring the adequate protection of human subjects. In activities they conduct or which are conducted under their direction, they have a direct and continuing responsibility to safeguard the rights and welfare of the individuals who are or may become subjects of the research. For research conducted in institutional settings, researchers must submit, with the application, documentation that the research has received approval from the appropriate institutional committee charged with assuring compliance with federal, state and local law concerning the conduct of research involving human subjects. Additionally, all researchers must include in the proposal plans for collection and analysis of data that demonstrate provisions for confidentiality or anonymity of respondents and a copy of the consent form(s).

PUBLISHING RIGHTS AGREEMENT AND PUBLICATION PROCESS:

Along with the application, researchers must sign and submit the ADHA Institute Publishing Rights Agreement, which becomes effective if a grant is awarded.

The Publishing Rights Agreement grants the ADHA Institute the right of first refusal to publish all such works as outlined in the Agreement and the right to be acknowledged for its financial assistance in all subsequent publications.

A manuscript will be submitted to the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* for publication subject to acceptance through the standard review process. Further, the ADHA Institute retains non-negotiable rights to the data obtained by the study. Rationale submitted by the author for publication in another journal will be considered by the committee and the board.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL:

Applications must be submitted to the ADHA Institute for Oral Health via mail. All applicants must use the 2005 ADHA Institute RFP application form found on the organization's website, located at www.adha.org/institute.

Instructions for Submission of Proposals:

Submit twelve (12) paper copies of the response, including attachments to:

ADHA Institute for Oral Health
2005 RFP Program
444 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 3400
Chicago, IL 60611-3980

Deadline for Proposals:

Deadline Date: June 30, 2005

Deadline Time: 5:00 PM

Questions must be submitted in writing to the ADHA Institute for Oral Health Executive Administrator via email, FAX or USPS. The deadline to submit questions is April 29, 2005.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS:

Review Criteria:

The ADHA Institute for Oral Health RFP Program makes use of the review criteria of the National Institutes of Health in its evaluation of proposals. The following section is a direct copy of text obtained from NIH RFA #RFA-AG-05-004, and will be used as the review criteria for this RFP program.

“Reviewers will be asked to discuss the following aspects of the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals:

- Significance
- Approach
- Innovation
- Investigator
- Environment

The scientific review group will address and consider each of these criteria in assigning the application’s overall score, weighting them as appropriate for each application. The application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact and thus deserve a high priority score. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative but is essential to move a field forward.

Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?

Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

Additional Review Criteria

Protection of Human Subjects from Research Risk: The involvement of human subjects and protections from research risk relating to their participation in the proposed research will be assessed.”

Review Process:

All 2005 RFP program submissions will be co-reviewed by the ADHA Institute for Oral Health Research Grant Committee and the ADHA Council on Research. Proposals will be reviewed and scored

independently, with combined scores and inter-committee discussion providing for the final proposal recommendation. The ADHA Institute for Oral Health Board of Directors is responsible for the selection and approval of the award recipient.

Applicants will be notified of the status of their grant proposal prior to October 31, 2005. The earliest possible funding date is September 30, 2005.

CONTRACT EXPANSION:

The ADHA Institute of Oral Health reserves the right to negotiate both increases and decreases to the maximum obligation as well as changes to the scope of service and/or performance measures throughout the duration of the contract and any option to renew to ensure the successful completion of services/goods procured through this RFP.

SUBCONTRACTING POLICIES:

Prior approval by the ADHA Institute of Oral Health is required for any subcontracted service of the agreement. Applicants are responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of all subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same financial and program reporting requirements as Applicants.

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

American Dental Education Association: *Improving the Oral Health Status of All Americans: Roles and Responsibilities of Academic Dental Institutions*. Washington, DC: American Dental Education Association, 2003.

American Dental Hygienists' Association: *Access to Care Position Paper*. Chicago: American Dental Hygienists' Association, 2001.

American Dental Hygienists' Association, States Permitting Unsupervised Practice/Less Restrictive Supervision, http://www.adha.org/governmental_affairs/downloads/unsupervisedchart.pdf, 5-01-04

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*. National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, Rockville, MD, National Institutes of Health, 2000.

U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration. *The Professional Practice Environment of Dental Hygienists in the Fifty States and the District of Columbia, 2001*. National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, Rockville, MD, Bureau of Health Professions, 2004.