DELTA DENTAL OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION AWARDS $908,500 IN GRANTS FOR 2015
Twenty-nine Virginia non-profit organizations receive funding to improve oral health

ROANOKE, Virginia – February 25, 2015 – Oral health and educational organizations across the state have something to smile about in 2015, thanks to the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation.

In December 2014, grants totaling $908,500 were awarded to 29, 501(c)(3), tax exempt organizations whose work will positively improve the oral health of Virginians through education access to care for the under or uninsured.

"Our challenge is to find ways to make the biggest impact on improving Virginians oral, and thus, whole body health," said George A. Levicki, president and CEO, Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation. "By providing much-needed funding, these organizations are in a better position to serve the oral health needs of their communities. We are delighted at the progress we are seeing."

Twenty-four Virginia community and free clinics and the health foundations received grants totaling $515,500 to improve access to dental care for Virginians who are either under or uninsured. Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation grants will provide for dental supplies and equipment, dental services, delivery of care, dentures and mobile dental equipment for rural areas.

In 2014, Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation grant award recipients were able to provide dental care to more than 39,575 children and 11, 203 adults who had previously been unable to afford or access care.

Among the success stories is the work done by the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF). The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation awarded VHCF a $1 million grant paid over three years to establish dental safety net organizations in Virginia communities where access to dental care is lacking. During the first two years of the challenge grant, VHCF has already established five dental safety net clinics in localities that did not have any and expanded the capacity of two small clinics. Those clinics have already provided 9,880 visits to 5,143 uninsured and underinsured Virginians.

Five universities and non-profit organizations received grants for oral health education and expansion of care through scholarships for aspiring health professionals. In 2012, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Dentistry received a $500,000 grant to be paid over four years for dental scholarships designed to address the shortage of dental professionals. Twelve dental students have benefitted from the scholarships so far. Additionally, the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine received a $1 million grant paid over four years to endow the Oral Health Teaching curriculum for medical students. VTC School of Medicine was the first in the nation to provide an extensive oral health component for its students through its innovative partnership with the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation.

Organizations eligible to receive grants from the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation include governmental agencies or educational institutions, entities holding a 501(c)(3) tax-exemption, or organizations with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt fiscal sponsor. The Foundation was created with an initial $2.5 million donation from Delta Dental of Virginia in 2012. Information regarding grant eligibility and application can be found online at
http://deltadentalva.com/ddvafoundation.aspx.

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