



FACT SHEET

OHA Dental Pilot Project Program

Establishment of OHA Dental Pilot Project Program

Senate Bill 738 was passed by the Oregon State Legislature in 2011. This bill allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to administer and evaluate a dental pilot project once an application has been approved.

What are Dental Pilot Projects?

Dental pilot projects encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to underserved populations that evidence-based studies have shown have the highest disease rates and the least access to dental care.

Dental Pilot Projects are intended to evaluate the quality of care, access, cost, workforce, and efficacy by teaching new skills to existing categories of dental personnel; developing new categories of dental personnel; accelerating the training of existing categories of dental personnel; or teaching new oral health care roles to previously untrained persons.

Role of OHA

- OHA monitors pilot projects for patient safety, conducts site visits and oversees an Advisory Committee for each project.
- OHA relies on the subject matter expertise of individuals on the Advisory Committee and contractors to determine if the services being provided to patients meet the minimum standard of care.
- OHA does not fund projects. Project sponsors are responsible for developing and operating projects.
- OHA does not certify or endorse pilot project concepts or educational models, curriculum, or other training content that may be utilized as part of a project.

Current Dental Pilot Projects (DPP)

- DPP #100: “Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project”
 - Sponsor: Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB)

- DPP #200: “Training Dental Hygienists to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations”
 - Sponsor: Oregon Health & Science University, School of Dentistry
- DPP #300: “Dental Therapist Project: Dental Hygiene Model”
 - Project Sponsor: Willamette Dental

Dental Therapy Legislation by State

Dental therapists are authorized to provide services in more than 53 countries.¹ The first dental therapists were introduced in New Zealand in 1913. A mixture of dental therapy models are authorized in 12 states and 9 states have legislation introduced or is pending.

Twelve states currently authorize dental therapists in statute:	States with legislation currently introduced and pending under various statuses (e.g. in committee, passed the house floor, etc.):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alaska 2. Arizona 3. Connecticut 4. Idaho 5. Maine 6. Michigan 7. Minnesota 8. Montana 9. Nevada 10. New Mexico 11. Vermont 12. Washington 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Florida 2. Indiana 3. Kansas 4. Massachusetts 5. New Jersey 6. New York 7. Oregon 8. Washington 9. Wisconsin

¹ Friedman JW. The international dental therapist: history and current status. J Calif Dent Assoc. 2011 Jan;39(1):23-9. PMID: 21337959.