



SB487: Strengthen Oral Health Care Coordination

Care coordination is as needed in oral health as in other aspects of health care, particularly among underserved populations. Oregon has very successful School Dental Screening and Sealant Programs. One in four children seen by these programs require follow-up dental care, some urgently. One in 12 children enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan receive preventative dental services *only* through these programs.

In-school programs need coordination to ensure children are connected with care and to remove barriers in seeking it. This bill appropriates funds to OHA to provide grants to each of the nearly 20 **OHA-certified School Dental Screening and Sealant Programs** to hire a **half-time coordinator**.

Currently, there is no specific reimbursement available for care coordination within School Dental Screening and Sealant Programs. The bill would appropriate \$900,000 to OHA for a 50% FTE care coordinator for each of Oregon’s 21 School Sealant Programs. Each program would receive a similar amount, without an elaborate grant application.

Train and Support 12 Community Dental Health Coordinators

Beyond schools, many people face language and cultural barriers, or lack insurance coverage, transportation, or childcare needed to visit a dentist. This bill also would subsidize the **training and employment of 12 Community Dental Health Coordinators** (CDHCs), a new type of non-clinical dental professional who help people overcome these barriers.

The bill would also appropriate \$900,000 to the Office of Rural Health to train and support 12 CDHCs. This would **subsidize tuition** for candidates seeking certification, prioritizing those from the communities they would serve.

It would also **incentivize employers** who serve rural or underserved communities **to hire newly certified CDHCs** by providing them a **two-year 50/50 salary match**. This would give employers time to demonstrate CDHCs’ value to payors.

(Endorsements on next page)

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Who might become a CDHC?
Community Health Workers
Dental Assistants and Hygienists

CDHC certification
1-year, part-time at a community college. Tuition is approx. \$3,500

CDHCs earn a living wage
\$65,000 average salary

January 2023



HB 487 Endorsed by:

**Healthy Kids Outreach Program · Salem Kaiser School District · 2023 Children's Agenda
Neighborhood Health Center · Washington County Kids · Friends of Outdoor School
Oregon Community Foundation · Willamette Dental Group · Oregon Dental Association
Families First PRC · Oregon Resource Family Alliance · ODS · Oregon Kids Read
Delta Dental of Oregon · Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization
Oregon Primary Care Association · Pro Choice Oregon · Clackamas Women's Services
Community Action Plan · Dental3 · Prevent Child Abuse Oregon · Family Dental Care
Oregon Food Bank · Relief Nurseries · Capitol Dental
Coalition of Communities of Color · Mercy Foundation**