

A DIRECTORY OF ORAL HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN THE STATE OF IDAHO

In an effort to increase the dental care safety net in Idaho, the two-fold purpose of this directory is to identify and distinguish between the major oral health-related programs aimed at reducing disparities in access to dental care and to provide health providers, state agencies and grantmakers with accurate, up-to-date information about available programs.

The Idaho Oral Health Alliance has made a good faith effort to list every major community, private or state-based program in Idaho. The list may not be comprehensive. If you know of a program that has not been included, or have corrections to the information listed, please contact Kathy Ellis at the Caring Foundation for Children, (208) 395-7741 or kmellis@regence.com

INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of this directory, there are three methods of delivery:

1. **Direct Care:** general and specialized dentistry. Direct care is generally provided by a community-based dental clinic, a mobile dental clinic or a portable clinic (a model frequently used in school-based prevention clinics).
2. **Prevention/Education:** population-based programs to prevent and control oral diseases. In Idaho, these programs target primarily children and their families and most are conducted through the state's seven district health departments. Programs include school-based fluoride mouthrinse and sealant programs, early childhood caries prevention fluoride varnish projects, surveys/screenings, and dental health education efforts directed to health professionals, teachers, students, parents and the community.
3. **Provider Reimbursement:** directly reimbursing dentists for care provided to the underserved, either at 100% of the "Usual and Customary" (UCR) or "Allowable" fees, or at pre-arranged, reduced fees.

DIRECT CARE

Clinic Name (Location)	Patient Eligibility for reduced fee (sliding scale) services	Services offered (Comprehensive, emergency, preventive)	No. of dentists currently employed or volunteering
Apollo College 1200 North Liberty Street (Boise) (208) 947-6821	? No eligibility requirements. Open to all ages and income levels.	Oral cancer screenings, periodontal assessments, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, and radiographs.	? Supervising dentists & dental hygienists
Benewah Medical Center (Plummer) (208) 686-1931	? American Indians; ? non-Indian residents in a four county area of North ID and Eastern WA at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)	Comprehensive dental care available to American Indians. Non-Indian residents in a four county area of North ID and Eastern WA are eligible for all services except prosthetics	? One contract general dentist; ? 1 contract removable prosthodontist; ? 1 contract orthodontist
Boise School District (Fort Boise Mid High) (208) 338-3468	? Must be a student in the Boise School District	The clinic makes every effort to provide comprehensive care.	? Rotates volunteer dentists during school months; employs part-time dental assistant.
Boundary Regional Community Health Center (Bonners Ferry) (208) 267-7718	? Eligibility requirements TBD	Mobile Clinic access for emergency, preventive care, and limited comprehensive care available.	? one dentist 2 assistants on mobile clinic ? looking for dental director and dental hygienist for center
Garden City Community Clinic (Garden City) (208) 384-5200	? Services will be free to Idahoans at or below 200% of FPG	Primarily emergency care	? Dental program launch to be determined. Volunteers needed.
Pocatello Family Dentistry Clinic/ Idaho Advanced General Dentistry Program (Pocatello—Boise) (208) 282-6000	? Idahoans at or below 200% of FPG.	Offers comprehensive dental care	? Three residents ? Seven faculty (all dentists)
Snake River Community Clinic (Lewiston) (208) 743-5899	? Services will be offered free of charge to eligible patients	Not available at this time	? Seeking volunteer dentists on a rotation basis
Terry Reilly Health Services (Boise, Nampa, Melba, Homedale) Boise: (208) 336-8801 Canyon County: (208) 466-0515 Homedale: (208) 337-6101 Melba: (208) 495-1011	? Idahoans at or below 200% of FPG. (Cases involving outside lab are at 100% of UCR.)	Cleanings, exams, x-rays, sealants, extractions, fillings, root canals on anterior teeth	? Five general dentists throughout area clinics
Valley Family Health Care (Payette, Nyssa, Ontario) (208) 642-9376	? At or below 200% of FPG	Makes every effort to provide comprehensive dental care	? Four dentists
Veterans Administration Dental Program (Boise) (208) 422-1389	? Veterans who meet eligibility criteria	Comprehensive dental care to eligible veterans	? Two general dentists ? 1 dental hygienist

Apollo College

Boise

The Apollo College Dental Hygiene Program has a state-of-the-art 30-chair dental hygiene teaching clinic. Dental hygiene students, under the supervision of highly trained State of Idaho Board of Dentistry licensed dentists and dental hygienists, provide preventative dental services at reasonable fees. Appointments are required.

Benewah Medical Center

Plummer

The Benewah Medical Center, a private organization owned by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, is an Indian Health Service & U.S. Public Health Services Act-funded Community Health Center. The center offers total comprehensive dental services to both American Indian and eligible non-Indian residents in a four county rural area of North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

The Benewah Medical Center is currently the only dental service provider who accepts Medicaid and offers sliding fee scale services in the region. Demand on the dental department has historically been stronger than our capacity to maintain acceptable access. To address this, Benewah Medical Centers has recently expended from 5 to 7 treatment rooms and moved to an "open access" or "same day" scheduling system. There are approximately 20% advance appointment slots; otherwise patients are expected to call when they can come in and be seen the same day.

Current staffing level is: 2 full time general dentists, 1 contract general dentist (2 days per week), 1 contract removable prosthodontist (3 days every other week), 1 contract orthodontist (1 day every 3 weeks), 1 full time dental hygienist and 1 part time dental hygienist, and 5 dental assistants

Boise School District

Boise

The Boise School District operates a free dental clinic located at Fort Boise Mid High for K-12 students in the district who are referred by their school nurses or parents. The program employs a dental assistant and incorporates volunteer dentists and a volunteer hygienist. An average of 70 dentists participate in the program on an annual basis. Doctors who opt to come to the clinic to volunteer spend between 2 ½ to 3 hours in the clinic. The program also has a network of dentists who will take a referral for treatment in their office. Parents are responsible for filling out an information sheet and bringing their children to the clinic. During the first appointment, Judy Swindell, the program's coordinator and a Certified Dental Assistant, screens the child to help determine care and provides education about home care to the child and their parent or guardian. Every effort is made to provide comprehensive dental care.

Boundary Regional Community Health Center

Boundary County

Boundary Regional Community Health Center (BRCHC) is an Idaho non-profit corporation that was incorporated in March 2002, whose mission is to provide culturally sensitive, responsive, cost effective, high quality health care services to all patients throughout the service area, regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay. The ultimate and ongoing goal of BRCHC is to eliminate health disparities and provide 100% access to high quality medical, dental, and mental health care services to all residents of Boundary County. BRCHC received a notice of grant award and certification as a Federally Qualified Health Center on September 13, 2002 and initiated medical services in December 2002. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.

BRCHC's goal is to offer dental services and dental hygiene services via the North Idaho Partners in Care Rural Mobile Clinic. The mobile clinic is in Boundary County the first and third Monday and Tuesday of each month. During the mobile clinic's time in Boundary County, it is staffed by medical care providers and support personnel—including bilingual outreach coordinators. BRCHC has one dentist and two assistants that serve on the mobile clinic. BRCHC is in the beginning stages of planning an on-site location for a dental program and will be recruiting a dental director and hygienist.

Garden City Community Clinic/Genesis World Mission

Garden City

Genesis World Mission is a not-for-profit Treasure Valley corporation whose volunteers work to meet the medical, physical and spiritual needs of the less fortunate at home and overseas. The organization has targeted Garden City has turned a warehouse located at 215 West 35th Street into a medical collection and distribution center, a medical thrift store, and an indigent clinic.

Patients must be at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. A volunteer dental program offering primarily emergency dental care is planned and dental screenings have begun on select Fridays. (**Available at:** <http://www.genesisworldmission.org/vision.php>)

Pocatello Family Dentistry Clinic

Pocatello

Pocatello Family Dentistry Clinic is a full-service dental clinic staffed by licensed dentists. All care is provided by dental residents who are in a training program to expand their skills and expertise. The supervising faculty consists of experienced general dentists and specialists.

The clinic offers comprehensive dental health care on a sliding fee schedule ranging from routine check ups and fillings to expensive reconstruction and prosthetics. In addition, the clinic offers a wide range of cosmetic and dental implant options. Conscious sedation and surgical services for third molar and other procedures are also offered at the clinic's convenient on-campus location. (Campus of Idaho State University.) To be eligible for sliding scale fees, patients must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The clinic will submit all insurance and Medicaid billing; however it is fee for service and payment is expected at the time of service. Office hours are by appointment.

Pocatello Family Dentistry Clinic plans on expanding into the Boise area early 2005 using dental residents. Location TBA.

Terry Reilly Health Services (TRHS)

Boise, Nampa, Melba

TRHS is a private not-for-profit organization that provides care to all, regardless of their ability to pay. Services are available on a discounted fee basis, in accordance with family size and income. Services are also available in English and Spanish, as well as other languages by special arrangement. TRHS is owned and governed by the communities it serves, through a representative governing board of directors. The clinics are open to all people. Services are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

New patients for exams are accepted once a month and patients with emergencies are accepted between regularly scheduled patients if they arrive at area clinics by 8:00 AM. TRHS Boise Dental and Canyon Dental (in Nampa) are open five days per week. THRS Melba Dental is currently open Mondays through Thursdays 8 AM to 5 PM. The new TRHS Homedale Dental is presently open Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM.

TRHS is able to give major fee discounts to many patients because of grant subsidies. Approximately two-fifths of the budget is provided through grants, largely through the Community and Migrant Health Center Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Additional grant assistance comes through United Way, Community Development Block Grants and others. Fees for services and donations make up the remainder of the budget. Five full-time dentists are presently employed by TRHS. (Available at: <http://www.trhs.org/About.htm>)

Valley Family Health Care

Ontario, Payette, Nyssa

Valley Family Health Care (VFHC) is a non-profit, federally qualified Migrant and Community Health Center. Valley Family Health operates six medical clinics, three in Oregon and three in Idaho, and three dental clinics. Clinic operations started in Payette in 1981 and have expanded into Malheur County, Oregon and Gem County, Idaho. In addition there is an outreach and educational operation located in Nyssa, Oregon.

The mission of Valley Family Health Care is to provide the best comprehensive medical and dental care for the entire community regardless of ability to pay. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale based on patient income. A prescription drug assistance program is available whereby indigent patients may apply to drug companies for free prescription drugs. All clinics are open five days a week. VFHC has four General Practice Dentists.

Veteran's Administration Dental Clinic

Boise

The VA Medical Center in Boise employs two full-time general dentists and one dental hygienist. Eligibility for dental care is determined on a case by case basis using eligibility criteria and guidelines established by the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Call the Business Office at the VA Medical Center for more detailed information: (208) 422-1224.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Idaho Public Health Districts

Statewide (Seven districts)

Idaho's District Health Departments conduct population-based preventive oral health programs in each of the seven public health districts of the State. Programs include the statewide school fluoride mouthrinse program, sealant, early childhood caries prevention fluoride varnish clinics for WIC, Head Start and other underserved children, surveys/screenings, and dental health education efforts directed to health professionals, teachers, students, parents and the community. Funding support is from the Federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, supplemented by State General Fund and local dollars.

School Fluoride Mouthrinse Program

Statewide

The fluoride mouthrinse program is provided through funding to Idaho's seven health districts by the Department of Health & Welfare. The mouthrinse program is targeted to students in grades 1-6 at schools in areas with below optimum water fluoride levels and with 30 percent or more of children on the free or reduced school lunch program. To be eligible, schools must have an average rate of two or more decayed, missing or filled (DMF) teeth per student.

For example, in Fiscal Year 2002, 34,062 students participated in the school fluoride mouthrinse program. As a result of the program, an estimated 17,031 one-surface cavities were prevented (0.5 tooth surfaces/year/child).* An estimated minimum of \$715,302 was saved at the Medicaid reimbursement rate of \$42.00 for a one-surface amalgam filling in a permanent tooth. Current Medicaid rates represent 40-50% of the UCR charged by private dental practitioners. This estimate does not reflect the cost of an oral examination, radiographs or more expensive restorative materials. Cavities that progress to more than one surface or have pulpal involvement before treatment is sought will also cost more to restore. An estimated minimum of \$1,055,922 was saved if restorative treatment were provided by a private dental provider at a usual and customary rate of \$62.00.

*Source: Symposium on Appropriate Uses of Fluoride in the 1990s; "A Critique of Topical Fluoride Methods (Dentifrices, Mouthrinses, Operator-, and Self-applied Gels)..." *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, Vol.51, No.1, Winter 1991, pp. 23-41.

Children's Dental Clinic Valley County

Valley County

Founded in January 2002, the Children's Dental Clinic Valley County is a school-based preventive dental clinic funded and administered by Central District Health Department. Medicaid-eligible children may enroll in the program and receive oral health education, screening, cleanings, fluoride treatment, and sealants free of charge. The clinic is located in McCall Elementary School and utilizes one Central District Health-employed dental hygienist and one dental assistant. In addition, the clinic is periodically set up in Donnelly and Cascade. If additional care is needed, the children are referred to two area dentists who are reimbursed at reduced fees through the Community Children's Medical Fund (see Community Children's Medical Fund under "Provider Reimbursement Programs").

Smile Clinic

Meridian School District

Smile Clinic was launched in November 2002 in partnership with the Meridian School District. It is located near Meridian Elementary School and provides preventive services by a dental hygienist employed by Central District Health Department to Medicaid eligible students from the school district. Weekly clinics are held throughout the school year. Children enrolled in the program receive oral health education, screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnish, and sealants.

Southwest District Health

Take Time for Teeth Preventive Dental Program

Targeting children 1-18 and pregnant women who have Medicaid or CHIP
Services include: cleanings, fluorides, sealants, education and assistance finding a dental home.

Hours: 9-4 Tuesdays and Thursdays
Call: (208) 455-5345 for an appointment

Southwest District Health
920 Main Street
Caldwell, Idaho 83713

PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT METHODS/PROGRAMS

Program Name (Location)	Patient Eligibility	Services Covered	No. of participating Dentists	Cost of benefits
Caring Foundation for Children Dental Program (Statewide) (208) 395-7741	? Children without dental insurance not receiving government assistance ? up to 19 years of age ? at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines	? Comprehensive oral exam & 1 follow-up; ? x-rays; ? cleanings, fluoride, sealants, resins; ? space maintainers & fillings; ? stainless steel crowns; ? extractions; ? therapeutic pulpotomy	Currently there are more than 70 dentists contracted as providers	Benefits are provided for one year at no cost to children and their families.
Senior Solutions Dental Access Program (Six Programs Statewide) (208) 345-7777	? Uninsured adults 60 years of age or older	? Dentures; ? partial dentures	Number of participating dentists varies	Lab fees are paid by Senior Solutions, which is reimbursed by patients as they are able
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Statewide) 1-800-926-2588 or 211	? Uninsured children up to 19 yrs whose families meet income qualifications	? Comprehensive dental care ? Orthodontics	In FY 2003 there were 490 unduplicated dental providers	Services are free to qualifying children

Caring Foundation for Children Dental Program Statewide

The Caring Foundation for Children Dental Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization administered by Regence BlueShield of Idaho. The Caring Foundation provides free dental care to low-income, uninsured children whose families cannot afford private coverage and receive no government assistance such as Medicaid or CHIP. Families whose children meet eligibility guidelines (income thresholds, uninsured status, and under 19 years of age) receive a maximum of \$1,000 of dental care per child per year for a maximum of two years. Benefits are provided at no cost to qualified families.

Senior Solutions Dental Access

Locally: Ten-county region. Statewide: 5 other regions

The Senior Solutions Dental Access Program is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide dentures and partial dentures to qualifying seniors in a ten-county area (Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington). Located in Boise, the program is one of six in the state initiated by the Office on Aging. Funding is provided by the Office on Aging, United Way and community and individual support.

To be eligible, potential patients must be sixty (60) years of age or older and without dental insurance. Local dentists are asked to participate in the program by volunteering to see one patient per year in their office. Dentists agree to volunteer their time and charge the program for lab fees only. Approximately 60 dentists—general practice dentists and specialists—in the ten-county area participate on an annual basis.

Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Statewide

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created a new children’s health insurance program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act called the State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP). This program enabled States to initiate and expand health insurance coverage for uninsured children. The funds cover the cost of insurance, as well as outreach services to get children enrolled and reasonable costs for administration. Funds must be used to cover previously uninsured children and not to replace existing public or private coverage.

The statute set broad outlines of the program’s structure, and established a partnership between Federal and State governments. States were given broad flexibility in tailoring the programs to meet their own circumstances. States could create or expand their own separate insurance programs, expand Medicaid, or combine both approaches. CHIP is part of the Idaho Medicaid program. Children or teens may qualify at no cost to parents if the child is under 19 years of age (in some very limited cases, 21) and income guidelines are met. (**Available at: www.idahocareline.org or 1-800-926-2588 or dial 211**)