


2021 Legislative Priorities

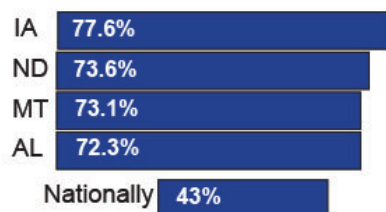


Hawki Dental Benefits

Children of some low- and moderate-income working families are eligible to receive dental benefits under Iowa's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as "Healthy and Well Kids-Iowa" (Hawki). Delta Dental of Iowa administers the Hawki dental benefit, which has proven to be a successful program in Iowa with high participation by dentists and Hawki members.


 Maintain the existing Hawki dental program and benefits.

Iowa Dentists Lead Country in Medicaid/CHIP Participation




Dental Wellness Plan & Medicaid Fee for Service

The Dental Wellness Plan (DWP) and Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) programs provide dental coverage for Iowa adult and children Medicaid members, respectively. Unfortunately, the reimbursement rates are so low that dentists subsidize many procedures out-of-pocket, creating a hardship for all dental offices and an obstacle for patients seeking care.

 Increase DWP and FFS reimbursement to more closely align with Hawki rates, which will allow dentists to cover their costs and facilitate greater access throughout the state.

Do-It-Yourself Dentistry

In 2020, IDA supported a bill requiring either an in-person exam before beginning orthodontic treatment or proof of an in-person dental exam within the past two years. IDA recognizes that remote care has the potential to increase access to care, and IDA supports the appropriate use of teledentistry so long as patient protections exist.

 Protect patients before they begin any orthodontia treatment.



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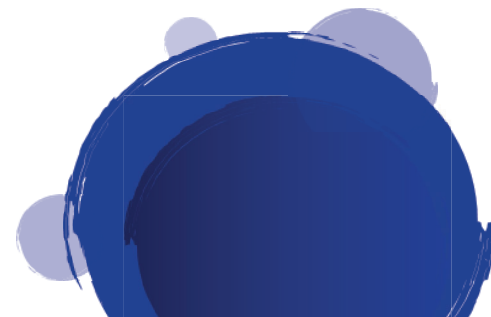
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Access to Care

Access to basic dental services is directly related to overall health. Lack of adequate oral healthcare can lead to development of chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease – which may result in expensive and avoidable emergency room visits. IDA strongly supports increasing access to care for vulnerable lowans and is committed to collaborating with existing provider groups to achieve this goal. The best way to ensure patient safety and best outcomes is for licensed dentists – who undergo the most rigorous training in the field – to supervise all other oral healthcare providers. IDA also supports efforts to ensure dental offices in Iowa are fully staffed so they can provide quality dental care to lowans.

 Ensure patient safety by requiring licensed dentists to supervise all other oral healthcare providers.


Increase State Funding for the Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) Program

Keeping Iowa-trained dentists in the state is vital to meeting the oral health needs of lowans. The FIND program offers dental education loan repayment awards to dentists in exchange for agreeing to practice in a dental shortage area and dedicating 35 percent of patient visits to underserved populations. Since its inception in 2002, 52 private-practice dentists have been placed in rural areas of Iowa. Expanding the support of this state-matching fund program will allow for more dentists to participate and increase access to care for underserved lowans, particularly in rural areas.

 Increase state funding for FIND from \$100,000 to \$500,000 for SFY22.

Fluoridation Reporting Requirements

Community water fluoridation is a safe, beneficial, cost-effective and socially equitable public health measure that can prevent dental caries in children and adults.

 Require communities to inform their citizens before discontinuing water fluoridation.

About IDA

Representing over 1,800 dentists, the IDA is the largest oral health association in Iowa. More than 80 percent of Iowa's practicing dentists are members of the IDA. The IDA's broad membership throughout the state and across all specialties reflects a unique commitment by dentists to work together to enhance their profession on behalf of their patients and all lowans. Each member of the IDA is also a member of one of Iowa's 10 district dental societies and the American Dental Association.

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