

# Local Impact Networks

## Community Partners Working Together to Achieve Health Equity

Local Impact Networks (LINs) link committed community partners who blend resources to improve oral health for those in the community who need it most. LINs focus on addressing factors that influence oral health including disease prevention, access to dental care, and healthy behaviors. The goal is to make measurable progress toward oral health equity in three to five years by creating a sustainable network of resources.

### Here's how Local Impact Networks work:

1. Arcora Foundation partners with a local organization to coordinate the LIN, including cultivating partners to head each **anchor strategy** (see list). In most cases, the local county health department leads an evaluation process to assess the effort.
2. Arcora Foundation provides **start-up funding** for the lead organization and for each anchor strategy.
3. The anchor strategy organizations develop creative approaches to **reduce barriers** and coordinate access to care.
4. The LIN engages clinical experts, policy advisors, and local funders to spread **best practices** and develop **sustainability plans**.

### LIN communities are selected based on the following:

- ✓ Burden of disease and with the best opportunity for improvement.
- ✓ Significant access-to-care inequities.
- ✓ Local partners committed to improving access, increasing prevention and transforming systems of care, leading to better oral health.
- ✓ Aligned regional assets, such as an Accountable Community of Health (ACH).

Arcora Foundation-sponsored LINs leverage local expertise and focus on approaches most likely to achieve lasting change. Currently, LINs are operating in Spokane and Thurston Counties. Assessments are underway to identify other communities that would benefit from a LIN approach.

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## LIN Anchor Strategies

### Community Care Coordination

Connecting people to dental care that accepts their insurance or provides no- or low-cost dental services

### Opioid Prescribing Practices

Reducing the use of opioids for dental pain management through provider and patient education

### Medical Dental Integration

Providing oral health preventive services in medical settings and connecting patients to local dental providers for routine care

### Access to Care

Weaving together access pathways for vulnerable populations, testing new care approaches, including teledentistry, and increasing the number of dentists serving Medicaid patients

### Sealants

Increasing the number of children who receive dental sealants at school

### Place-Based Approaches

Providing coordinated medical, dental, and behavioral health services in community-based settings

### Community Education

Promoting targeted education messages to influence health behaviors and community norms

# ARCORA

The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington