



Arcora Foundation 2020 Community Report



Our Mission and Vision

Combining **arc** and **oral**, Arcora Foundation represents our mission: **to bend the arc of oral health towards equity**. Our vision is that all people enjoy good oral and overall health with no one left behind.



ARCORA

The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington

Our Focus Areas

Transformation

Transforming health systems to ensure a healthy mouth is part of whole-person care delivered in clinical and community settings

Access

Ensuring people in underserved communities get affordable dental care that is convenient and easy to access

Prevention

Working with individuals and communities on upstream approaches to make it easier for people to avoid oral diseases



A Message From the CEO

I am grateful and excited to lead Arcora Foundation into the new decade and continue the meaningful work underway across the state. Much was accomplished in the last decade to improve oral health in Washington, but more is needed. Thanks to the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program, celebrating 20 years of success, Washington is a national leader in providing dental care to young lower-income children.

Yet, nearly 50 percent of these young children are still not getting the essential dental care they need to be healthy. Health inequities are widespread. Children of color have much higher rates of untreated cavities and only 22 percent of lower-income adults receive dental care. This is not acceptable. Poor oral health affects overall health and well-being. People are suffering because of painful, yet preventable, oral disease. We can and must do better.

We have three aims:

- Oral health should be part of overall health care.
- Disease prevention, including access to community water fluoridation, should be a priority.
- Everyone should have access to dental care.

It takes many voices to advocate for change and equity. Let's embrace the challenge together. Let's strive to ensure our state provides the right blend of prevention and access to dental care so that every child has the best start in life and every adult is pain free. I look forward to working with each of you to make sure all people in Washington receive the benefits of good oral health, with no one left behind.

[-Vanetta Abdellatif](#)

President & CEO, Arcora Foundation

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Nonprofit Delta Dental of Washington, the state's largest dental benefits company, funds our work.

Local Impact Networks: Growing a Movement for Health Equity

Arcora Foundation is working with committed community leaders across the state to improve the oral and overall health of underserved communities. The vision is to eliminate health disparities by improving local systems and programs through Local Impact Networks (LINS).

LINS accelerate transformation through testing new approaches, scaling best practices, and creating an evaluation to demonstrate impact. Current LINS include:

- Smile Spokane, led by Better Health Together
- Thurston Oral Health Network, led by CHOICE Regional Health Network
- The North Sound Accountable Community of Health (Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, and San Juan counties)

In addition, Public Health Centers for Excellence is laying the groundwork for a Pierce County LIN.

While focused on the unique strengths of each region, the LINS share common elements. They link together organizations and leverage local expertise, including clinicians, to reduce barriers to dental care and increase disease prevention. Arcora Foundation provides grants, technical assistance, and support to build community engagement. Network participants prioritize projects, guide funding, and engage local leaders. Examples of projects include increasing access for Medicaid-insured or uninsured adults, establishing school-based dental sealant programs, and providing care coordination for people needing extra support.

“ The investment Arcora Foundation has made in Smile Spokane is bold, progressive, and very much needed to spark true community health improvement.”

STACY WENZL

FORMER MANAGER, DATA CENTER, SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Highlights of our Health Equity Work



178,145

lower-income children under age six connected to dental care through ABCD (2018 data)



489

dental providers received continuing dental education



1,500

people in underserved communities received dental care on the SmileMobile



386

medical providers and teams trained to deliver oral health screenings and apply fluoride varnish



18,500

people connected to dental care through DentistLink



27,800

additional dental visits made possible in underserved communities through grants



405,219

families provided oral health education materials

If you are interested in learning more about the LIN model, contact Maureen Finneran at MFinneran@ArcoraFoundation.org

To learn more about our work, the status of oral health in Washington, and how we can partner, visit [ArcoraFoundation.org](https://www.ArcoraFoundation.org)



MouthMatters

Integrating Oral Health into Well-Child Care

Medical providers see young children many times before age three for well-child care. This provides a unique opportunity to screen for early signs of dental disease, provide education to families about how to prevent cavities, apply fluoride varnish to strengthen teeth, and refer children to a dentist.

Arcora Foundation is leading efforts across the state to train and support medical providers to deliver this important preventive care. Building on two decades of progress, in 2019, we launched MouthMatters to further support the integration of oral health into medical care with updated clinical and patient materials and tools.

We also implemented a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) quality improvement initiative for oral disease prevention. The MOC allows medical providers to earn certification and provides real-time, actionable data for quality improvement and practice coaching. The goal is to ensure more young children receive the preventive care needed for a lifetime of good oral health.

As a national leader on medical-dental integration, Arcora Foundation co-hosts monthly Oral Health Knowledge Network calls with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Participants from more than 15 states value this opportunity to collaborate and share best practices.

To learn more about MouthMatters or to schedule a training for your clinic, contact **Madlen Caplow** at MCaplow@ArcoraFoundation.org

Working with Tribes to Improve Oral Health

In 2019, The Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center and Arcora Foundation launched a new Tribal Elders' Collaborative. The Collaborative aims to improve the oral health of Tribal elders and support them as community oral health advocates. Dental teams from 10 tribal clinics, along with Tribal elders, participate in the Collaborative. Dental teams conduct home visits, provide education at Tribal events, and use minimally invasive approaches to treat dental disease.

We also continue to co-lead, with the Dental Support Center, the Baby Teeth Matter (BTM) Collaborative. More than half (18) of Northwest Tribal dental teams have participated in BTM. All teams have increased access to care for Native children under age five, some by more than 50 percent.

In 2019, the Swinomish Tribe celebrated the opening of their expanded dental clinic. With Arcora Foundation funding, the clinic added 13 chairs and, starting in 2020, will serve as the clinical site for Washington Dental Therapy Education Program students.





POWERED BY ARCORA FOUNDATION

Connecting People to Dental Care

In its second year, DentistLink helped connect more than 18,500 people to dental care. DentistLink assists everyone regardless of insurance coverage, including Medicaid and uninsured patients. DentistLink is provided at no cost to users, providers, and community partners.

“**DentistLink is a great resource for connecting individuals in need to dental care.**”

NEILL MEARS, DDS, SPOKANE

More than 25 organizations across the state currently refer their clients and patients to DentistLink. These referral partners include small organizations such as community-based non-profits and emergency rooms in large hospital systems.

“**I finally have hope that I will be out of pain and will be able to smile again.**”

ROBERT, TACOMA

Connect with this service at DentistLink.org or by texting or calling our referral specialists at 844-888-5465. DentistLink helps schedule appointments, sends reminders, and provides patient coaching to help ensure patients are ready and on time for their appointment. We know multiple barriers may keep people from accessing care, so DentistLink connects people to community resources, including transportation or childcare, to help them keep their appointment.

To learn more about DentistLink, contact
Svea Stromme at SStromme@ArcoraFoundation.org



Funding Innovation to Reduce Disparities

To foster health equity, Arcora Foundation funds innovative approaches to transform oral health care delivery, prevent oral disease, and increase access for underserved communities. These grants made possible an additional **27,800** annual dental visits.

Four **Local Impact Networks**

received \$743,000 in funding to reduce health disparities through locally driven strategies, including school sealant programs, care coordination, and dental access.

Community Health Care in

Pierce County received \$61,000 to establish a new school-based health center at Bethel Middle School.

HealthPoint Medical Clinic

in SeaTac received \$75,000 to help develop a new six-chair dental center.

International Community Health Services

received \$150,000 to expand its Shoreline Dental Clinic.

Klickitat Valley Public Hospital District #1

received \$125,000 to establish a three-chair dental clinic in rural Washington, becoming the state's second Rural Health Center with a dental clinic.

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

received \$100,000 to develop a new dental clinic that will combine vital health services in a single location and expand dental access.



SmileMobile: Miles of Smiles

Arcora Foundation's three-chair SmileMobile travels the state providing dental care to underserved communities. In 2019, the SmileMobile served more than 1,500 individuals at 29 locations.

Last summer, the program collaborated with the Bogachiel Medical Clinic and Forks School District to bring the SmileMobile to Forks. The dental team met and cared for three pregnant sisters – Sindy, Ismary, and Santos – along with their sons.

In every community, there are families like Sindy and her sisters who need dental care. The SmileMobile addresses health equity by providing oral health education, preventive and restorative care, and by connecting families to community resources through the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program and DentistLink.

“**The SmileMobile has touched many lives in our community of Forks, brightening smiles in both students and adults in need. The SmileMobile is a valuable partner to help people with their oral health.**”

MATTHEW HOLSHOUSER
PRINCIPAL, FORKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

If you would like to volunteer on the SmileMobile, contact Karri Amundson at KAmundson@ArcoraFoundation.org

Expanding Educational Opportunities

Arcora Foundation was recognized by the American Dental Association as a provider of Continuing Dental Education (CDE). This creates a tremendous opportunity for us to work directly with the dental community to design and deliver free courses. In 2019, nearly 500 dental providers received continuing dental education, including best practices in opioid prescribing and how to care for older adults, pregnant people and people with diabetes. In addition, we are able to serve as a provider of CDE for our partners, who are also delivering courses, at no cost. Some of the events we sponsored in 2019 include:

Efficient Caries Prevention & Management,
Dr. Douglas Young, in partnership with Washington Association of Community Health

**American Academy of
Dental Therapy Annual Conference,**
Portland, OR

**Opioids and Dentistry:
New Requirements & Best Practices,**
Drs. Gary Franklin and Theresa Madden

Improving the Oral Health of Your Older Patients, Drs. Bea Gandara, Ross Beirne, Kurt Labberton, Rod Wentworth, and Susanne Jeffrey, in partnership with the University of Washington Office of Continuing Dental Education

In addition to providing courses for dental providers, we also support the educational needs of Washington's growing Home Care Aide workforce who work with vulnerable seniors and disabled individuals. Our courses, offered online through SEIU (Service Employees International Union), reached more than 1,150 Home Care Aides in 2019. In 2020, all of the courses will be available free through the Arcora Foundation website.

To learn more about CDE opportunities, contact Karen Lewis at KLewis@ArcoraFoundation.org