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**Student, Family**

**& Community Supports Division**



**ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**STUDENT, FAMILY AND**

**COMMUITY SUPPORT DIVISION**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**SCHOOL-BASED DENTAL PROGRAMS/SERVICES**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION

4:00 pm on Friday, March 28, 2014

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| **This is only a Request for Information (RFI) and does NOT constitute an agreement with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). Should this RFI result in an agreement, the APS Student, Family and Community Supports (SFCS) Division will notify the applicant.**  **All services performed per an award for this RFI must be performed at no cost to APS. Successful applicants will be directed to bill Medicaid, other third party payers or provide services pro-bono.** |

# PURPOSE

The Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), Student, Family and Community Supports (SFCS) Division is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) from dental health providers interested in providing oral health programs/services in APS. The intent of this RFI is to create a system to ensure seamless support, efficiency and maximization of resources to extend outreach and reduce duplication of effort to meet the needs of children in the APS system.

The purpose of the RFI is to gather information for dental health providers who are interested delivering direct services in APS for the 2014-2015 School Year following the prescribe defined approach.

**BACKGROUND**

Oral health diseases are often referred to as the “silent epidemic” that is affecting our most vulnerable citizens – children from families with low incomes, children from racial and ethnic minority groups, and children with special health care needs. Within the Albuquerque Public School system, it is not unusual to learn of children who are suffering from pain of untreated oral infections and decay. APS is interested in coordinating a comprehensive oral health program that includes prevention and control of tooth decay. Tooth decay is progressive and if left untreated, can significantly diminish overall health and quality of life for children. Failure to prevent and treat tooth decay has long-term effects on children’s development, compromising their ability to eat and speak, reducing self-esteem, and leading to failure to thrive. The cost of preventive dental care is minimal compared to the consequences of children suffering from dental pain/infection and having extensive treatment to repair damaged teeth.

APS does not know the specific number of children within the school system who lack the basic benefit of oral health care; however, school nurses report oral health as the most common unmet health care need for children. School nurses acknowledge children are presenting with tooth decay, gum disease, loose teeth, and oral trauma. Furthermore, they report that when children have poor oral health, their ability to learn is affected. Children are distracted by dental pain and are unable to concentrate and learn, complete school work and score well on tests and exams. Poor oral health is also related to poor school-performance, poor social relationships and decreased academic success. Nationally, one-third (33%) of low-income children age 2-11 have untreated tooth decay in their primary teeth, compared to 15% of children at or above twice the poverty level. Almost 12% of low-income children age 6-11 have untreated tooth decay in their permanent teeth, compared with 4% of children at or above twice the poverty level. Although more than 90% of general dentists provide care to children, only a small percentage provide care to children covered by Medicaid and who under age four *(Seale NS, Casamassimo PS. Access to dental care for children in the United States: a survey of general practitioners. J Am Dent Assoc. 2003 Dec; 134(12): 1630-40)*. Services for children with low incomes who are eligible for Medicaid within APS are facing similar circumstances.

There is a strong correlation between a child’s health and academic performance. One of the fundamental missions of APS, SFCS Division is to provide the knowledge and skills to help children become healthy and productive adults; promoting healthy and safe behaviors among students is an important part of this mission. APS currently supports a ***Coordinated School Health Model*** and is actively engaged with organizations, agencies, providers, community and families to work together to maintain the well-being of young people. Developing partnerships with dental health professionals to coordinate and deliver services to youth with unmet needs is an important component to this model. Alignment of dental services with the ***Coordinated School Health Model*** is critical and will require partnership from providers to ensure seamless support, efficiency and maximization of resources to extend outreach and reduce duplication of effort.

Partners responding to this RFI must align proposals with best and promising practices described by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors to integrate oral health into the Coordinated School Health Model (ASTDD: Where Oral Health Lives. Best Practice Approaches, May 2011.) APS seeks proposals to establish services needed for direct care services that supports prevention (sealant, varnish programs, cleaning), primary restorative care, along with case management to establish dental homes, make referrals; and conduct follow up.

Applicants chosen to provide services with APS will be required to provide a midyear and yearend report. See Sections I, II, and III below.

**DEFINITIONS**

# Dental Health Screenings: an examination by a dental provider to determine the oral health status of a student. The assessment identifies whether or not a student has had dental sealants prior to the examination and is in need of a dental sealant on the molar and to identify any active oral disease.

**Oral Hygiene**: is the practice of keeping the mouth clean and healthy by brushing and flossing to prevent tooth decay and gum disease.

**Prophylaxis**: cleaning of the teeth by a dentist or dental hygienist, including removal of plaque, materia alba, calculus, and extrinsic stains; done as a preventive measure for control of gingivitis.

# Restorative Dental Health Care: is the diagnosis and integrated management of diseases of the teeth and their supporting structures and the rehabilitation of the dentition to functional and aesthetic requirements of the individual.

**Referral Follow Up**: secure a dental providerto provide services or establish a dental home for services and confirm that a treatment plan has been completed.

# Dental Home: is the ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way. Establishment of a dental home begins no later than 12 months of age and includes referral to dental specialists when appropriate

**Dental Sealants**: Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied to the grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to protect them from tooth decay. Most tooth decay in children and teens occurs on these surfaces. Sealants protect the chewing surfaces from tooth decay by keeping germs and food particles out of these grooves (molar).

**Flouride Varnish**: is a topical fluoride used to prevent tooth decay. Fluoridated toothpaste is another type of topical fluoride. Both are used on the surface of teeth. Fluoride in varnish enters the tooth enamel and makes the tooth hard. It prevents new cavities and slows down or stops decay from getting worse. If tooth decay is just starting, it repairs the tooth

**Oral Prophylaxis**: cleaning of the teeth by a dentist or dental hygienist, including removal of plaque, material alba, calculus, and extrinsic stains; done as a preventive measure for control of gingivitis.

**Oral Health Case Management**: recruits dentists to provide services or establish a dental home, educates clients about the use of dental services and keeping appointments, links clients to dental offices, identifies potential barriers to care and helps clients obtain transportation to appointments.

# ELIGIBILITY

This RFI is open to Dental health care providers interested in providing dental health services in APS. All services performed per an award for this RFI must be performed at no cost to APS. Successful applicants will be directed to bill Medicaid, other third party payers or provide services pro-bono.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Questions concerning this RFI should be directed to: Laura Case, Director, Nursing, Albuquerque Public Schools [Laura.Case@aps.edu](mailto:Laura.Case@aps.edu) or 505-855-9834.

1. Complete RFI must be typewritten using a minimum of 12 point font. Each page must be completed for consideration of partnership with APS:

* Cover Page
* Proposed Program
* Proposed Budget
* School/District/Charter School Assurances

1. A signed original of the **RFI must be received by Friday 4:00 pm Friday, March 28, 2014**. Facsimile copies **will not** be accepted. RFI should be mailed/delivered to:

**Laura Case**

Director, Nursing

Student, Family and Community Supports Division

Albuquerque Public Schools

P.O. Box 25704

Albuquerque, NM 87125-0704

or hand carried to:

APS City Center

6400 Uptown Blvd. NE Suite 380

Albuquerque, NM

**COVER PAGE**

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| **Program Coordinator** | | | |
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| **Primary Contact for Data** | | | |
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| **List All Providers That Will Be Working in the Schools**  (page may be duplicated for additional providers) | | | |
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| **List Names of All School Proposing to Serve in This Application/Projected # of Students**  (page may be duplicated for additional schools) | |
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**PROPOSED SERVICES**

**Please complete each section below.**

**Section I:** (limit 2 pages) – (20 Points)

**Describe how you will establish a dental health clinic at the proposed school sites. Include**

* Marketing and Outreach plan to families
* Consenting process: Permission and sign-up forms may be included as attachments)
* Data collection and how data will be shared with APS
* Educational materials for families and youth (bilingual).

**Section II:** (limit 4 pages):

1. **Check-off the scope of services you will provide in each school. – (**10 Points)
   * Dental Screening
   * Dental Sealants
   * Fluoride Varnish
   * Oral Prophylaxis
   * Dental Restorative Work
   * Referral to Dental Home
   * Oral Health Case Management
   * Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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2. **Describe Case Management strategies planned to assist families in establishing Dental Homes; referral and follow up. Identify who will conduct this work and how will it be tracked and reported – (**15 Points)**:**

**Section III:** (limit 2 page) – (20 Points):

**Describe strategies for collecting and reporting data (unduplicated reporting). Include the following data in your proposal:**

* Number of students served at each school (include age, gender and ethnicity)
* Number and type of services provided to each student
* Number of referrals (type of referrals)
* Number and type of follow-up services
* Number and type of completed treatments
* Number of students seen with Medicaid, private insurance and uninsured.
* Number of students receiving case management and identify success or failure.

**Section IV:** (limit 2 page) – (25 Points):

**Describe strategies you will utilized to serve uninsured students:**

**Section V:** (limit 1 page) – (10 Points):

**Identify/Describe facility requirements needed to perform services on-campus:**

**ASSURANCES**

We the undersigned assure that:

1. The information included in the enclosed Request for Information (RFI) is true and accurate.
2. The dental program/services described though this RFI will support Albuquerque Public Schools students.
3. We will participate in all data collection and sharing with Albuquerque Public Schools.
4. All providers working in schools hold the appropriate licenses/certifications to provide the school-based dental services.
5. All providers working in schools have cleared the Albuquerque Public Schools Fingerprinting Background Check.

**Agency Name:**

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Print Name Authorized Agency Representative Date

Signature