

Fund Comprehensive Dental for Adults with I/DD

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Dental care is the number one unmet need among adults with developmental disabilities.**
- **Lack of availability of comprehensive dental care for adults with I/DD creates an over dependence and strain on local Emergency Rooms.**
- **In 2016, it was estimated there were visits to the ER every 15 seconds due to dental conditions.**
- **Limited Medicaid coverage for dental healthcare can lead to extraordinary and unnecessary overall medical costs for the individual AND the state.**
- **Act 450 of 2021 ensures adults in I/DD Medicaid waivers receive comprehensive dental care, but this is contingent on funding being available.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Ensure \$5.3 Million* in State General Fund is included in the FY23 budget for comprehensive dental coverage for adults enrolled in any Medicaid waiver for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why Do This?

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have gone too long without necessary and needed dental health care which impacts their overall health. Poor oral health has been associated with a number of other potentially life-threatening conditions including:

- Obesity
- Heart Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Depression
- Aggression
- Elopement
- Refusal to Eat

Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on preventive dental care, \$8 to \$50 can be saved on restorative and emergency treatments. It is estimated over a five year period, those who have access to good preventative oral healthcare save 31% in dental costs while those not receiving preventative care see an increase in cost by 43%.

Ensuring adults with I/DD receive comprehensive dental care not only increases better health outcomes for the individual but it will save the state money in the long run!

- ◆ Estimated cost is based on [HB172 of 2021 \(Act 450\)](#) Enrolled fiscal note.
- ◆ Contents of this fact sheet derived from the Louisiana Dental Task Force for Adults with I/DD [Fact Sheet](#) & [Infographic](#).