

# Enhanced Dental Teams Grant: Developing Dental Care Access for Underserved Communities & Families



## **Grant Administrator**

Arizona Department of Health Services  
Bureau of Women's and Children's Health  
Office of Oral Health (OOH)

## **Funder and Grant Program**

Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA)  
Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities

- (a) In 2006, awarded a 3-year grant: Established 5 teledentistry sites in Arizona.
- (b) In 2010, awarded a 3-year grant: To build enhanced dental teams in Arizona.

## **Grant Name**

*Enhanced Dental Teams (EDT) Grant*

## **Goal of the EDT Grant**

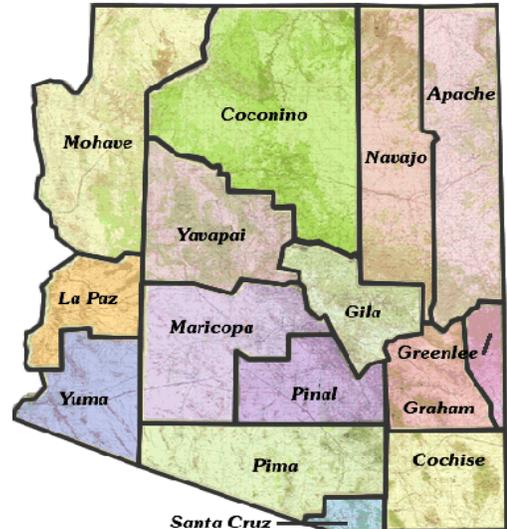
To promote and develop enhanced dental teams (utilizing teledentistry practice, affiliated practice and other strategies) to improve workforce capacity, diversity and flexibility for providing oral health services to underserved populations and underserved areas.

## **Objectives of the EDT Grant**

1. Build and expand regional/local program development infrastructure;
2. Train providers for enhanced dental teams and increase provider understanding and competencies for teledentistry practice, affiliated practice and other strategies;
3. Increase the number of enhanced dental teams at the state, regional and local levels; and
4. Educate and increase awareness of program administrators, policymakers and funders about enhanced dental teams and how teledentistry practice, affiliated practice and other strategies can increase workforce capacity and flexibility in community settings;
5. Develop and gather resource materials, tools and lessons to support development of practice models, making this information accessible to providers, programs and communities.

## **Focus Activity Areas of the EDT Grant**

1. Build state, regional and local infrastructure.
  - Connection with state initiatives (First Things First, Head Start Dental Home Initiative, American Indian Oral Health Summit, and Arizona Telehealth Network)
  - Regional Oral Health Coordinators building linkages and integrating/coordinating oral health care in 10 counties (Mohave/La Paz; Coconino/Yavapai; Navajo/Apache/Gila; and Pima/Cochise/Santa Cruz)
  - Regional oral health coalitions, assessments of needs and assets, and action plans
2. Develop practice models with partners
  - Initial teledentistry providers
  - Dental providers in the private sector
  - Governmental agencies
  - Foundations
3. Provide communications
  - Policymakers, program administrators, funders, and advocates
  - Resource information, tools, and website



## **Grant Support in Developing a Teledentistry Program**

Partners have requested support that included the following:

1. Lend teledentistry equipment (hardware and software).
2. Provide training and technical assistance on setting up a teledentistry and affiliated practice.
3. Hands-on demonstration and training on teledentistry equipment.
4. Introduce local dental providers as potential members to build a dental team.
5. Support integration and coordination of services in the community, county and region.
6. Connect dental providers with stakeholders at the local, regional and state levels.
7. Educate stakeholders and funders on oral health and oral health care.
8. Provide resource information and support program analysis and evaluation.
9. Promote networking with other teledentistry providers to collectively address issues.
10. Enlist Southwest Telehealth Resource Center and the Arizona Telemedicine Program to provide additional expertise and technical assistance
11. Train community educators on consistent messages for oral health and oral health care.
12. Explore use of technology to improve oral health education (pilot e-health materials for perinatal and early childhood oral health).

### **Five Initial Teledentistry Providers in Arizona**

1. Hopi Health Care Center Dental Program (Hopi)
2. Northern Arizona Council of Governments Head Start (NACOG)
3. Northern Arizona University Dental Hygiene Department (NAU)
4. North Country HealthCare Dental Services in collaboration with Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (NCHC/ASDOH)
5. Scottsdale HealthCare & Community Health Services, Neighborhood Outreach Action for Health Program (NOAH)

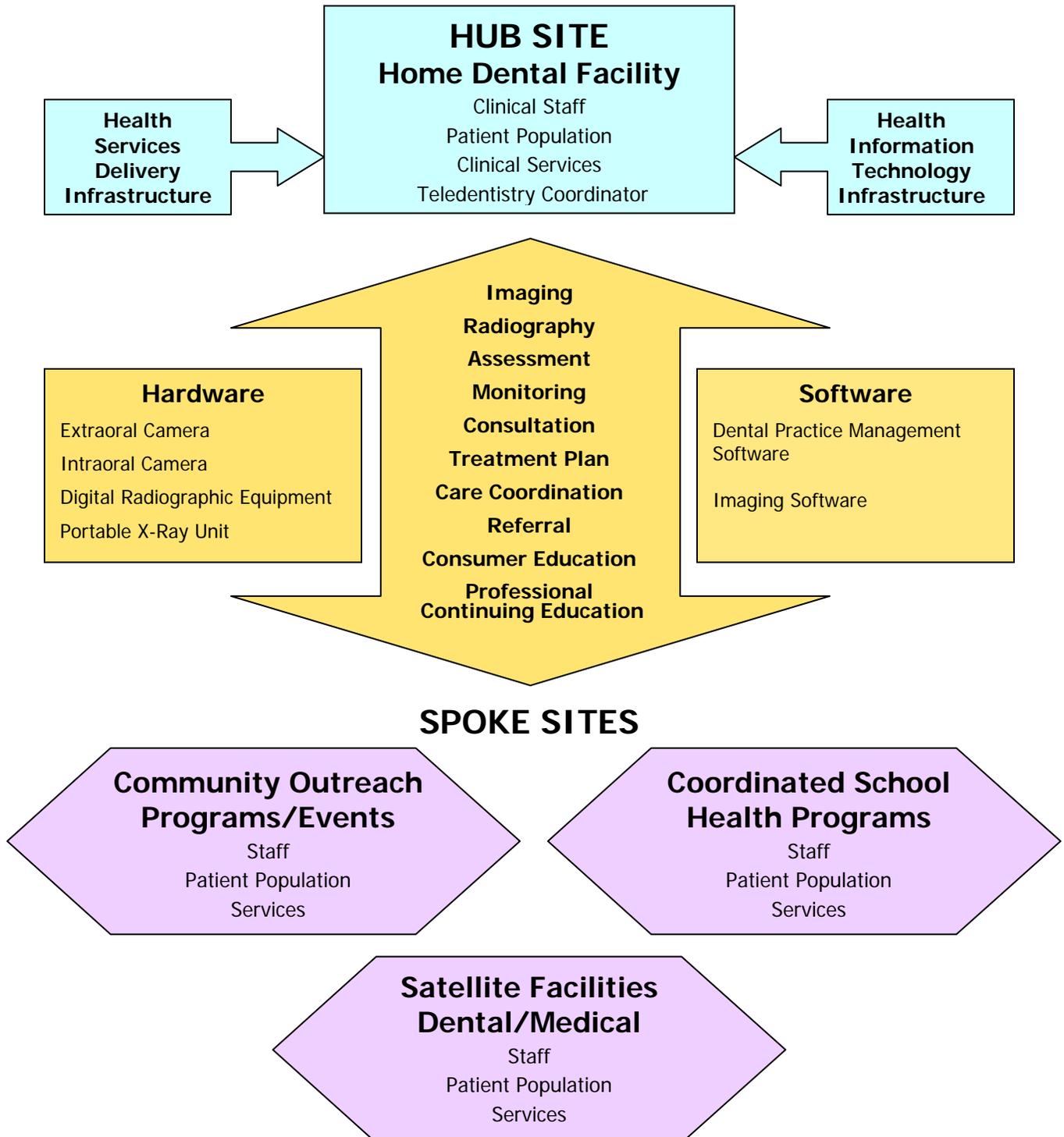


### **Developing Teledentistry Practices and Programs**

1. Pediatric Dentist – Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienist – Kindercamps
2. Pediatric Dentist – Satellite Practice – Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienist – Referrals by Local General Dentists
3. County Health Department – First Things First Community Outreach – Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienists – Affiliated Practice/Teledentistry Dentists
4. Pediatric Dentist – Health Initiative Supported by a Hospital – School District – NAU
5. Pediatric Dentist – A Pediatric Group Practice – An OB-GYN Group Practice
6. General Dentist – A Mobile School Based Oral Health Program
7. County Health Department – School Based Dental Sealant Program – Teledentistry

## A Framework for Teledentistry

The initial efforts for the Arizona teledentistry providers varied in their focus of using the technology to build capacity in their program's dental service delivery. The providers contributed to learning various aspects of teledentistry and help develop a framework for teledentistry that will continue to evolve.



## Hopi Health Care Center's Teledentistry Model

The Hopi Health Care Center (HHCC), an IHS Service Unit, is a critical access hospital that offers diverse services including dental care to 28,000 eligible patients. The HHCC is centrally located on the Hopi Reservation. The HHCC School-based Preventive Dental Program, started full operation in September 2008, uses teledentistry to support diagnostic, preventive and temporary restorative care for children in the elementary schools on the Hopi Reservation. The Teledentist is a pediatric dentist. One to two dental hygienists provide services in the school setting. At each school, children are provided with dental services onsite (include x-rays, intraoral photographs, prophylaxis/scaling, fluoride applications, dental sealants, temporary fillings, oral hygiene instruction, and oral health education). Further care is coordinated with the HHCC dental clinic. Once preventive services have been provided to all children with parental consent in a school, the mobile dental program relocates to the next school. The following is HHCC's teledentistry model.



<b>Hopi Health Care Center (HHCC) – IHS Service Unit:</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HHCC Dental Clinic</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HHCC Dental Program</b></p> <p>14-operatory dental clinic</p> <p>1 Pediatric Dentist (Teledentist); 4 General Dentists; 2 Dental Hygienists; 13 Dental Assistants; 1 Receptionist (all FTEs)</p> <p>Visiting specialists, volunteer dentists and dental/dental hygiene students</p> <p>Clinical services include preventive, restorative, oral surgery, prosthetic, periodontal, and endodontic care.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Information Technology</b></p> <p>HHCC has its own IT Department to support teledentistry.</p> <p>The Center uses a medical system (RPMS) to manage patient scheduling and billing.</p>

<b>Care Coordination</b>		
<p><b>Teledentistry Hardware</b></p> <p>Extraoral Camera Acclaim Intraoral Camera NOMAD Portable X-ray Unit ScanX Duo Digital Imaging System</p>	<p>HHCC School-Based Preventive Dental Program coordinates care for all elementary school children with the HHCC Dental Clinic.</p>	<p><b>Teledentistry Software</b></p> <p>Tigerview (imaging software) Open Dental (practice management software)</p>

<b>HHCC School-Based Preventive Dental Program Serves Elementary Schools on the Hopi Reservation:</b>		
<p>Portable dental equipment is brought to the schools, allowing for two dental operatory set-ups at the school facility.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>School Based Preventive Program</b></p> 	<p>A dental hygienist collects oral health data that includes charting, digital radiographs and intra-oral films.</p> <p>The data is stored and forwarded to the HHCC pediatric dentist for diagnosis and treatment planning.</p> <p>Clinical services include diagnostic, preventive, and temporary restorative care.</p>
<p>Northern Arizona University dental hygiene students and faculty also provide school-based preventive services.</p>		