

PA Coalition for Oral Health

PA Oral Health Plan Funding Opportunities

2026-2027 Guidelines

Purpose

The PA Oral Health Plan Funding Opportunities Program aims to facilitate the implementation of the goals and recommendations of the [2020-2030 PA Oral Health Plan](#) and to advance the oral health of all Pennsylvanians. This will be accomplished by supporting the completion of smaller projects not eligible or unable to compete for alternative funding methods that will benefit from the speed and flexibility afforded by the PA Oral Health Plan (Plan) Funding Opportunities Program.

This program is administered by PA Coalition for Oral Health (PCOH) and is funded through a grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant U58DP006467: Promoting Strategies to Advance Oral Health in Pennsylvania and under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant: NB01PW000051. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the Plan Funding Opportunities Program include all community-based organizations, county or municipal governments, school districts, colleges/universities, and nonprofit organizations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Eligible Project Categories

Projects eligible for funding must fall within at least one of the 67 counties of Pennsylvania and support the implementation of the [2020-2030 PA Oral Health Plan](#). Eligible projects will come from the following priority areas identified in the Plan, and awards will be distributed to capture as many priority areas as possible:

- Access, Prevention, and Education
- Workforce
- Infrastructure Improvement

Plan Action Steps:

Priority will be given to projects that focus on the following action steps as identified for 2026-2027:

- *Increase access to oral health services for people residing in dental health professional shortage areas*
- *Initiate policy(ies) to expand the oral health workforce in venues serving underserved populations to provide more opportunities for access to treatment, prevention and education services*
- *Reduce total healthcare costs through policy and advocacy that enhances access to oral disease prevention and treatment services*
- *Promote dental provider use of silver diamine fluoride for dental caries control for individuals who cannot receive traditional restorative treatment*
- *Promote education and training of medical primary care practitioners in the assessment and provision of basic oral health services*
- *Support programs that increase the number of dental providers in designated health professional shortage areas*

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Funding

Maximum Request – The maximum request may not exceed \$4,000.

Allowable Expenses – All funded expenses must be clinically or educationally relevant. Food/beverage, prizes, and other “swag” are not allowable expenses. Use of funding to cover indirect costs is not permitted for this program. These funds cannot contribute to clinical salaries/personnel, only administrative costs/personnel.

Cost Reimbursement – Funding is strictly on a reimbursement basis. Awardees will not receive a check upon approval of their project. All costs are paid by the applicant, and a reimbursement request is submitted to PCOH for payment upon receipt of all necessary documentation.

The project period opens **September 10, 2026**. All funding-associated expenses must be incurred and billed to PCOH by **April 30, 2027**, with final reports due by **May 27, 2026**. Reimbursement will be issued via check and mailed within 60-90 days of final report submission unless otherwise communicated.

Application Procedure

Application Form – The PA Oral Health Plan Funding Opportunities [application](#) is hyperlinked and available on the PCOH website. A pdf of the application is available upon request.

Closing Date – Applications must be received by PCOH by **October 8, 2026, at 5pm**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. [Electronic submissions](#) (preferred) can be completed [here](#). Hard copy submissions (only if necessary) can be mailed to PCOH, PO Box 242, Delmont, PA, 15626 and must be received by October 8, 2026. If mailing a hard copy, please email info@paoralhealth.org to alert PCOH to expect the application.

Application Evaluation

Review Process – PCOH will review and score all eligible applications and issue awards. Funds will be distributed in a way that captures as many Plan priority areas as possible. If there is more than one application with the highest score, the population reach, geographic location, and originality will be taken into consideration. Please follow all instructions in the application; word/character counts will be enforced. Applicants will be notified by **October 22, 2026**, regardless of award status.

Scoring

Project Description - 20 points

Application provides a thorough description of the project. The project can be completed within the funding cycle. (September 10, 2026-April 30, 2027)

Reach of Project –10 points

Application provides a detailed description of the target population(s).

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Project Meets Plan Goals – 35 points

Project aligns with and is derived from Plan Priority Areas *and* Action Steps. The project mentions specific Plan Priority Areas, Action Step(s), and identifies which of the 22 measurable outcomes from the Plan are addressed. Use of evidence-based practices is encouraged.

Budget – 10 points

Detailed budget using the template provided is included. The application identifies where funds will be used and adheres to funding guidelines.

Goal Evaluation Process – 25 points

Demonstrates necessary processes for reporting funding outcomes and includes a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objective that will be met with the project.

Important Deadlines

- October 8, 2026 – Applications and supporting materials must be received by PCOH by 5pm.
- October 22, 2026– Applicants will be notified.
- April 30, 2027 – All funding expenses must be incurred/billed to PCOH.
- May 27, 2027– Final reports due to PCOH (form will be provided).

Contacts

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Resources

- [PA Oral Health Plan Funding Opportunities 2026-2027 Application](#)
- [2020-2030 Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan](#)
- [Seeking Best Practices: A Conceptual Framework for Planning and Improving Evidence-Based Practices](#)
- [Budget Template](#)