



What is the Fulfilling Iowa's Need for Dentists (FIND) project?

The FIND Project is committed to connecting dentists and underserved communities with the resources needed to combat Iowa's dental workforce shortage and ensure dental care is close to home for every Iowan.

FIND collaborates with communities and dentists on the recruitment and establishment of private practice dental offices located in underserved areas in Iowa.

Dental Loan Repayment

Through Delta Dental of Iowa, dentists can receive education loan repayment over a five-year commitment period to help address the oral health care needs of underserved Iowans.

Dentists who receive loan repayment in this program must practice in dental shortage areas and allocate at least 35 percent of patient visits to vulnerable populations, with a minimum of 15 percent of those visits to Medicaid-enrolled patients.

Practice Opportunities / Dental Workforce

The Office of Iowa Practice Opportunities (OIPO) at The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics helps new dental graduates connect with active and potential practice opportunities in Iowa. The OIPO also provides demographics of dentists practicing in the state.

Through the American Dental Association Practice Transitions (ADAPT) Program, the Iowa Dental Association also assists the dental workforce to make the process of entering or leaving a dental practice more successful. This includes matching a dentist who is looking for a new practice with one who is trying to add an associate or partner or sell a practice.

Community Resources

Dentists can take advantage of community outreach efforts with Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) and their sponsoring utilities that have connections with local leaders to start things off right. Confidential, professional, and effective discussions can bring projects together and include assistance with local funding for FIND program match. Additionally, IADG and their partners have access to low interest loans for establishing dental practices.

The Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) I-Smile™ Program is a statewide initiative to connect Iowans with dental, medical, and community resources. Local I-Smile™ Coordinators work with dentists to help establish dental homes for underserved children and their families, and partner with community leaders in dental recruitment efforts. IDPH also coordinates I-Smile™ Silver, a pilot project to improve dental care for adults.



Iowa Needs You!

The FIND Project can assist you with locating practice opportunities and connect you with community leaders and funding for dental office and equipment.

FIND also offers education loan repayment.

There are retiring dentists and dental office openings across the state in these and other Iowa counties. Whether you want to go back to your hometown or another Iowa community, the FIND Project is here to help.

FIND Office Hours will start soon. Please contact Lindsey Drilling to set up a time slot to learn more.

Linsdey-drilling@uiowa.edu

FIND Loan Repayment Program

\$200,000 award for a high priority county or **\$125,000** award for a priority or non-priority county.

High Priority Counties:

*Adair
Adams
Audubon
Calhoun
Cedar
Clarke
Davis
Fremont
Guthrie
Kossuth
Monona
Montgomery
Osceola
Palo Alto
Ringgold
Sac
Tama
Taylor
Van Buren
Wayne
Worth*

Up to 4 awards per year for a 5-year commitment



Education Loan Repayment Application Timeline

May 1 - Initial contact & online account established with Delta Dental

July 1 - Applications due

Sept. 1 - Letter(s) of commitment for community match due to DDIA

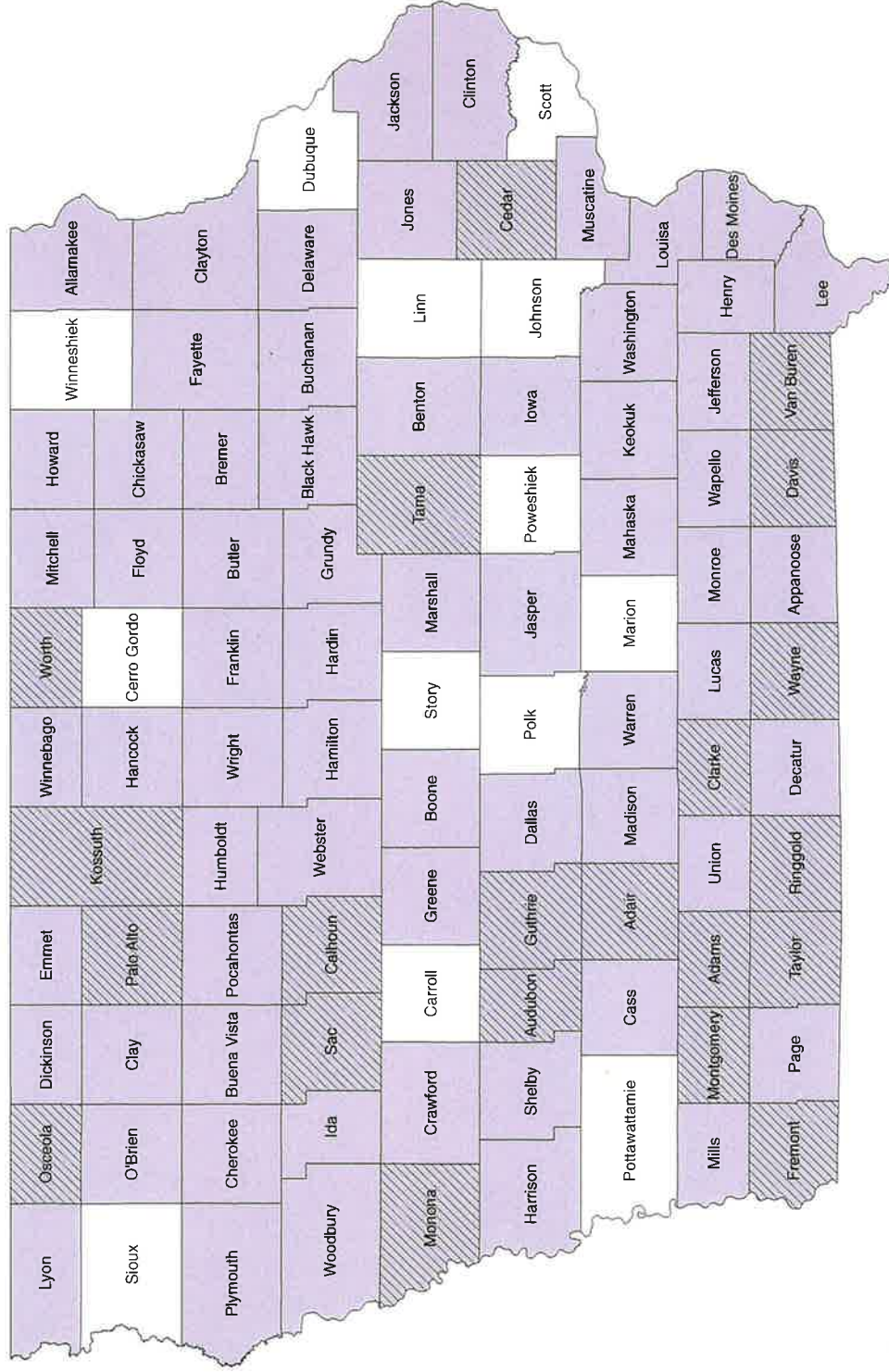
Nov. 1 - Applicants notified of award status

Dec. 1 - Community match checks due to DDIA

Jan. 1 - Program start date (first loan payment made during first quarter)



Delta Dental of Iowa FIND Loan Repayment Program 2021-2022 Priority & High Priority Counties*



Priority Counties

Source: Governor's Designation for Rural Health Clinic Status & HRSA Dental Health Professional Shortage Area Designation

High Priority Counties

Source: Iowa Dentist Tracking System, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine (0-1 dentist or only dentists age 60 or older)

* All Iowa counties are eligible for the FIND Program; however, preference will be given to dentists in a priority or high priority county.
12/2021