

What is the history and purpose of the “Healthy Smiles for Texans” program?

A team of dentists developed the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program in 1986 through the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH), a charitable affiliate of the American Dental Association. In September of 2000, the Texas Dental Association elected to participate and administer a DDS program in Texas through our charitable foundation. Today, the TDA Smiles Foundation has transitioned this program into the new Healthy Smiles for Texans (HST) program, and has expanded the scope to include veterans, as well as the medically disabled, the elderly and domestic abuse survivors. The program provides free, comprehensive dental care for those who meet the eligibility criteria and have inadequate means of paying for dental treatment.

How does it work?

Volunteer dentists, laboratories, and the HST Program Coordinator all work together to create a seamless program that allows the dentist to practice without constraints, and the patient to receive the care they need. The HST coordinator will verify that the applicant has reliable transportation before matching an applicant with a provider. Once the patient has been assigned to a provider, the patient and dental office are responsible for scheduling the treatment appointments. After the care has been completed, the provider shall submit the Treatment Completion Form to the HST Coordinator. The provider’s office is under no obligation to become the patient’s “dental home.” The HST Coordinator is available to answer questions about the program’s procedures and help resolve any problems that may arise during the course of treatment.

What are the benefits of being an HST provider?

1) You decide who you will treat.

Information about an applicant will be sent to you and be referred to your office only **after** you have agreed to see the patient for an examination. After the exam, you must let the HST Coordinator know if you will accept the case.

2) You never have to leave your office.

You work in your office, with your own equipment so you are as comfortable and efficient with your treatment as possible.

3) You determine the treatment plan.

The applicant can either accept your plan or choose to leave the program. The HST Coordinator works with your office to support whatever treatment plan you believe is in the best interest of the patient.

4) Limited paperwork and administrative responsibilities.

The only forms volunteers are requested to complete are an evaluation and treatment completion form. If your office is willing, you can help us by contacting your preferred lab to inquire about discounts or donated services, but that is not required.

5) Patients must abide by strict attendance and behavior policies.

Applicants know they must be on time for all appointments, and be respectful to the dentist and their staff. Failure to do so results in dismissal from the program. They also understand that volunteer offices are not obligated to become their “dental home” after the case is completed.

Please Note: The request for services is ongoing. We currently have over 150 applicants on our waiting list. The average wait time for services is about one year, exceeding two years in some counties. The only way to decrease wait time for qualified applicants is to increase the number of volunteer dentists. To find out more information about the program you can call us at 512-448-2441 or fill out and submit the form below (fax or email). We look forward to your participation!



Volunteer Provider Information

a program of the Texas Dental Association Smiles Foundation

Provider Information

Dentist's Name

Office Contact Person

Office Address, City, County, Zip

Office Phone

Office Fax

Email (program's preferred method of contact)

Is your office wheelchair accessible? ___ Yes ___ No

Practice Focus ___ General Dentist OR ___ Specialist: _____

If you are a general dentist, can you provide the name of a specialist you can refer program patients to who would also be willing to volunteer care?

Provider Specifics

How many HST Program patients will you accept per year? _____

What type(s) of cases do you prefer?

- Restorative Simple Surgical Removable Prosthetics Advanced oral surgery Perio Endo

In order to increase the number of patients being seen statewide, your office would be willing to:

_____ Provide more direct follow-up with the patient

_____ Contact your preferred dental lab to inquire about discounts/donated lab

If you checked both boxes above, you will only contact the HST Program Coordinator at the beginning and end of treatment, if significant problems arise, or to get lab costs approved.

Return completed form to HST Program Coordinator Traci Mondragon

Fax: 512-448-2781

OR

Scan and email to: tracim@tda.org (preferred)