

## **California Health Facilities Financing Authority (Authority)**

### **Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program Update**

#### **Information Item**

**March 30, 2023**

#### **Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program Overview**

On June 27, 2022, the Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program (Dental Program) was chaptered into law, authorizing the Authority to administer a \$25 million grant program for the purpose of increasing access to oral health care for special health care needs populations through the development and expansion of specialty dental clinics.

#### **Dental Program Update**

Since the last update to the Authority board on January 26, 2023, Authority staff has continued to work on clarifying statutory language and further refining key issues within the guidelines by reviewing input we received from various stakeholders. Additionally, staff has been regularly meeting and communicating with the California Dental Association Foundation to discuss Dental Program guidelines and statutory interpretation, licensing requirements for dental clinics, geographical shortage areas, potential program criteria, and has met with the California Department of Developmental Services to discuss their input and suggestions on some of the guideline topics. Staff has also consulted with the State Treasurer's Office legal counsel regarding eligibility, and with TAP International Inc., CHFFA's financial analyst regarding financial documentation for dental entities. Staff is in the process of finishing a program survey that will be sent to all the stakeholders for input regarding interest for grant funding, specific projects they would pursue and estimated grant amounts they would require for their project. Staff will continue to work on developing the guidelines and continue engaging with stakeholders to develop a robust program and maximize utilization of grant funds.

#### **Dental Clinic Site Visit**

In order to get a better understanding on how a specialty dental clinic operates, staff attended a site visit on March 9, 2023, of a community clinic that offers medical and specialized dental services, including for patients who are diagnosed with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). As a result of the partnership between Alta California Regional Center (Alta) and Health and Life Organization (HALO), the new clinic, constructed from the ground up, opened in Sacramento in May 2022. The Alta/HALO Clinic is a mixed-use medical and dental facility that features specialized equipment, including a panoramic imaging machine, spacious dental treatment areas, wide hallways, a desensitization area, and staff who has received additional training geared towards providing dental services to individuals with I/DD. The space is also equipped with a Versatilt, which is a piece of equipment that allows for more comfortable dental treatment for patients with physical disabilities while in a wheelchair who may not otherwise be able to be transferred into a standard dental chair.

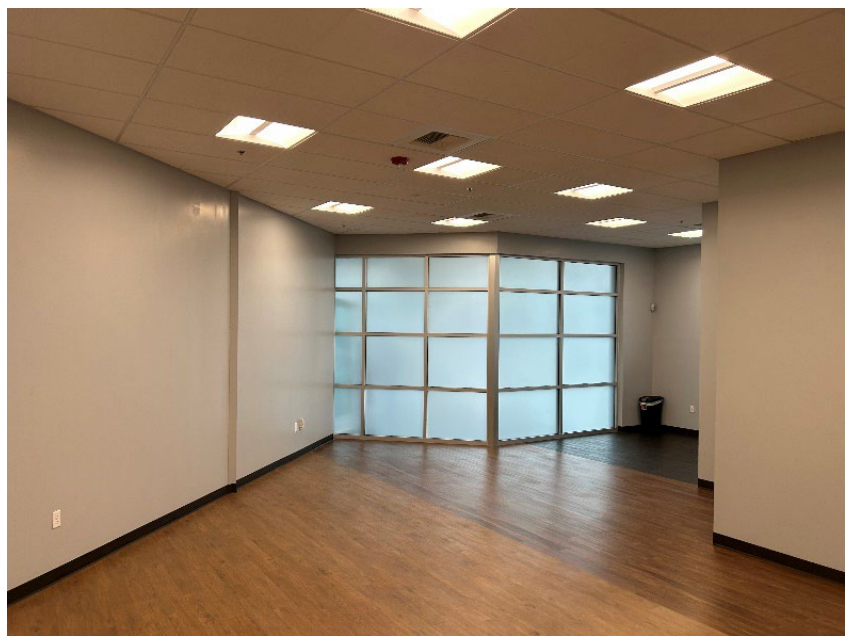
**California Health Facilities Financing Authority**  
**Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program**  
**Alta California Regional Center/Health and Life Organization**  
**Site Visit**  
**March 9, 2023**



The Alta California Regional Center/Health and Life Organization Clinic,  
located at 965 El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95815



Reception Area



Desensitization Treatment Area



Standard Treatment Area



Specialized Treatment Area with Versatilt Equipment used to Treat Patients with Disabilities



Panoramic Imaging Machine used to Scan Patients with Disabilities