

**CALIFORNIA HEALTH FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY (Authority)**  
**SPECIALTY DENTAL CLINIC GRANT PROGRAM**

**Projects Status Updates**

**February 26, 2026**

**Background and Program Funding**

On June 30, 2022, the Specialty Dental Grant Program (Dental Program) was chaptered into law through the annual Budget Act of 2022 (Section 47, Chapter 45, Statutes of 2022), authorizing the Authority, using an appropriation of \$25 million, to provide grants to eligible entities 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 in California. On June 27, 2023, the Dental Program was allocated an additional \$25 million through the passing of the annual Budget Act of 2023 (Section 2.00, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023), bringing the cumulative amount to \$50 million, of which \$47.5 million was allocated for grant awards and \$2.5 million was allocated for program administration costs.

**Program Development and Implementation**

Authority staff began working on the program structure and development of the guidelines in Fall of 2022. To the extent possible, guidelines for the Dental Program were modeled after the regulations for other Authority grant programs. Modifications were made tailoring the Dental Program guidelines towards the special health care needs patients by developing selection criteria that will support timely access, reduce geographic shortages, increase equity and support quality of care, reduce the need for sedation or general anesthesia.

Authority staff consulted with the Authority's technical advisor, the California Dental Association, and in November 2022, staff held a stakeholder kickoff meeting, which included an overview of the Dental Program and encouraged stakeholder input on program development. In January 2023, staff presented an information item to the Authority board on the status of the Dental Program, which included discussions on the 50% percent caseload requirement and the reduced need for anesthesia. Later in July 2023, the Authority board approved the Dental Program guidelines.

The first funding round opened in October 2023, with an application submission deadline of April 1, 2024. Due to uncertainty of state budget funding, staff did not proceed with the review and scoring of the applications. In January 2024, the 2024-25 Governor's budget proposed a two-year delay of the Dental Program funding. In May 2024, the Governor's budget revision proposed elimination of the funding altogether; however, the Final Budget Act of 2024 left funding for the Dental Program as chaptered in the Statutes of 2022 and 2023.

**Summary of Grant Awards**

During the first funding round, the Authority received 111 applications requesting a total of approximately \$300 million in grant funding. In February 2025, the Authority approved 13 grant awards totaling \$47,500,000, which were expected to develop approximately 127 operatories and serve approximately 40,285 special health care needs patients annually.

Two grantees forfeited a total of \$7,908,831 due to the uncertainty of Medi-Cal reimbursements and concerns about being able to meet the Dental Program requirement of operating for 10 years with a 50% special health care needs patient caseload. Forfeited funds will be made available for a subsequent funding round.

After forfeitures, 11 grantees remain, and the Dental Program projects are now expected to develop approximately 114 operatories and serve approximately 37,835 special health care needs patients annually.

### **Project Statuses**

As of February 2026, the remaining 11 grantees are at various stages in their projects:

- 1) six grantees are working towards meeting the readiness, feasibility, and sustainability program requirement deadline<sup>1</sup>:
  - a. three grantees (Alameda Health System, California Northstate University LLC, and Luciane Queiroz) have a deadline of February 27, 2026. California Northstate University is expected to submit the outstanding documentation (proof of leveraged funding) by the deadline. Alameda Health System, and Luciane Queiroz have requested their readiness, feasibility, and sustainability deadlines be extended to December 31, 2026 and the request is currently under review<sup>2</sup>..
  - b. three grantees (ImpowerDent SurgiCenter Inc., University of California Los Angeles School of Dentistry (UCLA), and University of Southern California Herman Ostow School of Dentistry (USC)) have a readiness deadline of August 27, 2026. UCLA and USC are renovating university owned properties and are currently working on selecting and executing architecture and construction contracts.
- 2) five grantees have met the readiness, feasibility, and sustainability requirements and secured property for their projects:
  - a. Elmer Hilo DDS, Russel Seheult DDS and University of the Pacific-Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry (UOP) are renovating already owned property and currently pending final approvals for building permits or the execution of the construction contract.
  - b. Rajvir S. Bhogal DDS Inc is expected to close escrow on the purchase of property soon.
  - c. Janice Chen DDS has purchased property with grant funds and has begun construction/renovation.

---

<sup>1</sup> Readiness, feasibility and sustainability deadlines were assessed based on the type of project (construction, renovation, property acquisition; etc.) presented at time of application and as determined in accordance with Section 7(a)(5)(D) of the program guidelines.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with Section 13(a)(3) of the program guidelines, the Executive Director or Deputy Executive Director may extend the ready, feasible, and sustainable deadline, on a case-by-case basis and for good cause.

As of February 2026, CHFFA has approved disbursements for five grantees, Elmer Hilo DDS, Janice Chen DDS, Rajvir S. Bhogal DDS, Russel Seheult DDS, and UOP with a combined total amount of \$4,947,733.72 for eligible expenses, including property acquisition, deposits on architecture and construction contracts, and equipment costs. Prior to disbursing funds, each grantee met the readiness, feasibility, and sustainability requirements by submitting documentation, that includes but is not limited to: buyers' statements, property appraisals, proof of property ownership, executed architecture and construction contracts, construction permits, equipment purchase orders, proof of leveraged funding, detailed project and operation budgets and a statement of how the grantee intends to cope with the fluctuation and uncertainty of Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

A detailed summary of the Dental Program projects and funding is attached as Exhibit A.

**Exhibit A: Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program – Projects Status Updates**

**California Health Facilities Financing Authority  
Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program Projects**

Exhibit A

Grantee	County and Region	Awarded	Disbursed	Forfeited	Remaining	Operatories	Expected Special Health Care Need Patients Served Annually	Project Status**	Readiness Deadline	Project Update
						Operational/Expected				
Alameda Health System	Alameda County Bay Area/Central Coast Region	\$ 4,350,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,350,000.00	0/7*	3500	Readiness	Feb 27, 2026	Requested readiness extension to 12/31/26. Renovating owned property, currently working to execute construction contracts and finalize leveraged funding sources to meet the readiness, feasibility, and sustainability requirement. Grant Agreement pending grantee signature.
Amy H. Pham, A Professional Dental Corporation	Butte County Superior Region	2,908,831.00		2,908,831.00	-	0/0	0	Forfeited		
California Northstate University LLC	Sacramento County Superior Region	2,241,169.00			2,241,169.00	0/11*	2040	Readiness	Feb 27, 2026	Working on obtaining proof of secured leveraged funding to meet the readiness, feasibility, and sustainability requirement.
Community Medical Centers, Inc.	San Joaquin County San Joaquin Region	5,000,000.00		5,000,000.00	-	0/0	0	Forfeited		
Elmer Hilo	Los Angeles County Los Angeles Region	3,186,889.00	84,135.18		3,102,753.82	0/8	4989	Site Secured	Feb 27, 2026 MET	Site secured and architectural contract has been executed. Currently working to execute a construction contract.
ImpowerDent Surgi Centers Inc	Imperial County Southern Region	5,000,000.00			5,000,000.00	0/10	2070	Readiness	Aug 27, 2026	Working on obtaining the necessary documentation to meet the readiness, feasible, and sustainable requirement
Janice Chen	Riverside County Southern Region	4,500,000.00	2,143,176.04		2,356,823.96	0/14*	6000	Construction	Aug 27, 2026 MET	Site secured and currently in the construction phase.
Luciane Queiroz	Kern County San Joaquin Region	2,300,000.00			2,300,000.00	0/10*	1157	Readiness	Feb 27, 2026	Requested readiness extension to 12/31/26. Searching for a property that meets financial and space requirements; conducting financial analysis and discussing project with architecture and construction consultants.
Rajvir S. Bhogal DDS Inc	Sacramento County Superior Region	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00		-	0/10	1040	Site Selected	Feb 27, 2026 MET	Site has been selected, however the purchase has not been finalized
Russel Seheult DDS Readlands Special Care Dentistry	San Bernardino County Southern Region	2,910,000.00	84,800.00		2,825,200.00	0/8	5000	Site Secured	Feb 27, 2026 MET	Renovating owned property and currently submitting documents to city to receive building permits.
The Regents of the University of California/ University of California Los Angeles School of Dentistry	Los Angeles County Los Angeles Region	4,200,000.00			4,200,000.00	0/8	2439	Readiness	Aug 27, 2026	Renovating owned property and currently in the bidding process to pre-qualify contractors to begin construction phase.
USC - Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry	Los Angeles County Los Angeles Region	3,403,111.00			3,403,111.00	0/11*	1200	Readiness	Aug 27, 2026	Renovating owned property and currently in the bidding process to finalize construction and architect/engineer contract.
University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry	San Francisco County Bay Area/Central Coast Region	5,000,000.00	135,622.50		4,864,377.50	0/17*	8400	Site Secured	Aug 27, 2026 MET	Renovating owned property and architectural contract has been executed. Currently working to execute a construction contract.
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 47,500,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,947,733.72</b>	<b>\$ 7,908,831.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,643,435.28</b>	<b>0/114</b>	<b>37835</b>			

\* **Operatories** include but are not limited to: dental chairs, surgical suites, operating rooms, etc.

**\*\* Project Status**

Readiness: Means the grantee is working towards meeting the Readiness, Feasible, and Sustainable requirements

Site Secured: Means the Grantee has ownership or in a lease agreement for the property/facility but has not yet executed the necessary contracts to proceed with construction/renovation

Site Selected: Means the grantee has a property purchase agreement but escrow is not closed yet

Construction: Means the grantee has begun construction/renovation

Forfeited: Means the grantee has forfeited the grant project and all grant funding.