



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

News Release

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma Announces the Development of the Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program

SACRAMENTO – California State Treasurer Fiona Ma announced the development of the Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program (Dental Grant Program) and its importance during a stakeholder kickoff meeting today. The Dental Grant Program was authorized when Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Budget Act of 2022, allocating \$25 million to be disbursed through a competitive grant program for the purpose of increasing access to oral healthcare for the special healthcare needs populations through the development and expansion of specialty dental clinics. The Dental Grant Program will be developed and administered by the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA), which is chaired by Treasurer Ma.

The special healthcare needs population is defined as children and adults who have disabilities that prevent them from receiving routine or specialty care due to their physical, developmental, or cognitive condition. In consultation with the California Dental Association and other stakeholders, CHFFA will develop the competitive grant program's guidelines, application process, eligibility criteria, and methodology for the distribution of grant funds.

"As State Treasurer, and chair of CHFFA, it is very important to me to ensure that our vulnerable populations in California have access to essential healthcare, including basic oral healthcare," said Treasurer Ma. "The expansion of dental facilities made possible with this grant program will have a significant impact on increasing access to specialized dental care for the special healthcare needs population."

Under the Dental Grant Program, grantees will be required to provide the much-needed services to the special healthcare needs population for a minimum of 10 years upon the completion of the construction, modification, or adaptation of a specialty dental clinic with funds awarded by CHFFA.

CHFFA was established in 1979 as the State's vehicle for providing financial assistance to public and non-profit healthcare providers. CHFFA's mission is to help eligible and creditworthy non-profit and public health facilities reduce their cost of capital, and promote important California health access, healthcare improvement, and cost containment objectives by providing cost-effective tax-exempt bond, low-cost loan, and direct grant programs.

For more information on CHFFA's Dental Grant Program or to stay apprised of the developments on the Dental Grant Program, please visit CHFFA's [Dental Grant Program website](#).

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Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office was created in the California Constitution in 1849. It provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. California is the world's fifth-largest economy and Treasurer Ma is the state's primary banker. Presently, her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions. She provides transparency and oversight for the government's investment portfolio and accounts, as well as for the state's surplus funds. Treasurer Ma oversees an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion—a significant portion of which is beneficially owned by more than 2,200 local governments in California. She serves as agent of sale for all State bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.

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