



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA

News Release

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma Announces New \$50 Million Grant Program for Specialty Dental Clinics

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Fiona Ma today announced the approval of guidelines for a new \$50 million grant program for specialty dental clinics to expand healthcare access to California’s special healthcare needs populations. The California Health Facilities Financing Authority, chaired by Ma as state treasurer, is expected to begin taking applications later this fall.

“Specialty dental clinics often fill a critical gap in providing healthcare to special needs populations,” said Treasurer Ma. “This program will help increase access to dental and other healthcare services and ensure that vulnerable populations don’t have to forgo the care they need or wait unreasonable long periods of time to get it.”

The guidelines approved today for the Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program include a listing of eligible applicant types and how funds may be spent, the grant application and evaluation criteria, the scoring and appeals process, relevant dates and deadlines, and additional information.

The dental grant program was enabled through an initial allocation of \$25 million in the 2022-23 Budget Act. Another \$25 million was allocated in this year’s budget, bringing the total allocation to \$50 million. All funds must be disbursed by June 30, 2030.

Regional maximums were also established for the first funding round to ensure equitable distribution of funds:

- San Joaquin Region \$7,300,000
- Superior Region \$7,650,000
- Bay Area/Central Coast Region \$9,350,000
- Southern Region \$12,410,000
- Los Angeles Region \$10,790,000

In developing the program guidelines approved today, CHFFA staff worked with the California Dental Association Foundation, and consulted multiple stakeholder groups, including the California Department of Developmental Services, California Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the California Dental Hygienists' Association.

CHFFA also today approved a \$1.8 million low-interest rate loan for Transitions – Mental Health Association in San Luis Obispo. Transitions helps adults and youth struggling with mental health issues by offering housing, employment, community, and family support services. They will use the loan proceeds to purchase a larger residential property with space for staff offices, private therapy sessions, and recreational activities for its clients.

CHFFA was established in 1979 to provide financial assistance to public and private non-profit healthcare providers in California. The diverse nature of the facilities funded by CHFFA reflects the changing health care needs of California. From rural, community-based organizations, to large, multi-hospital systems, CHFFA has financed a wide variety of providers and programs through the issuance of bonds, loans, and grants.

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Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She was first elected on November 6, 2018, with more votes (7,825,587) than any other candidate for treasurer in the state's history and reelected on November 8, 2022. 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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