



Pediatric Oral Health Access Program (POHAP) CDA Foundation

The CDA Foundation, the philanthropic partner of CDA, designs all of its programs to align with its mission to improve the oral health of *all Californians* by supporting the dental profession and its efforts to meet community needs. The Pediatric Oral Health Access Program (POHAP) is no exception. Thanks to funding from The California Endowment, in partnership with the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry, POHAP is a comprehensive continuing education program designed to increase access to dental care by providing general dentists with increased knowledge and skills necessary to treat infants and children, including children with special health care needs.

The two-year project requires a commitment by the dentists accepted into the program to provide a limited amount of no-cost treatment to underserved children within one year of having completed the training. It is projected that 300 general dentists in the state will provide treatment at no cost to 6,000 underserved children who otherwise would have gone without care. Additionally, participating dentists commit to accept pediatric patients in their offices on a long-term basis - resulting in an increase in access to care for an estimated 30,000 underserved children across the state. **Dentists who participate will receive 32 continuing education units.**

In 2007 the training program was offered in Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area and the San Diego/Orange/Imperial County region. In 2008 the program will be offered in the Central Valley, Northern California and once more in the San Diego/Orange/Imperial region.

The training program consists of specific pediatric dentistry topics including oral disease prevention, behavior management, restorative materials, diagnosis & treatment planning, hands-on training in a simulation lab, reviewing case studies, and considerations for local anesthesia and nitrous oxide with pediatric patients.

Upon completion of the two-year project at the end of 2008, the CDA Foundation hopes to continue with additional comprehensive pediatric training. For additional information about POHAP or the many other programs the CDA Foundation offers to increase access to care, visit their Web site at www.cdafoundation.org or call 916.554.4916.