

i. PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title	Improving Oral Health for Underserved and Vulnerable Populations					
Institution	Mercy Health—Youngstown, LLC General Practice Dentistry Residency Program					
Project Director	Dr. M. Frank Beck, DDS, FAAHD, MAGD, FICOI, DSCDA					
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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
Grant Funds Requested	\$389,507	\$392,952	\$400,159	\$407,580	\$415,225	\$2,005,423
Dental Residents Trained	6	7	8	9	9	39
Family Medicine Residents Trained	13	4	4	4	4	29
Other Health Professions Trained	211	202	204	204	206	1,027

Overview: The project will improve access to and the delivery of oral health services, particularly to vulnerable populations and individuals located in rural and/or underserved areas in the Greater Youngstown area, a severely economically distressed Appalachian region in Northeast Ohio. Mercy Health's General Practice Dental Residency Program, Family Medicine Residency Program, Primary Care Family Medicine Program and the FQHC in Columbiana County will collaborate to expand and enhance the didactic and clinical training curriculum of the Dental Residency Program to better prepare dentists to practice in and lead new models of oral healthcare delivery. Mercy Health will deploy an innovative approach to resident training by employing a recent outstanding residency program completer as a Community Oral Health Officer (COHO) each year. In this capacity, the COHO will play a key role in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of resident education programs with primary responsibilities for linking the didactic and community-based clinical and training into a fully-integrated and well-rounded resident training experience. The COHO will be able to further enhance their own clinical skills and gain valuable experience leading, managing and evaluating community-based service sites. Due to the nature of their work, the COHO will qualify for participation in eligible loan forgiveness programs. Successful implementation of the proposed project will be greatly facilitated by the unique expertise and extensive experience of the Project Director, Dr. M. Frank Beck, widely recognized as a national leader, pioneer and innovator in the training of resident dentists with a proven track record of successfully implementing previous HRSA and SAMHSA grants. In addition, a Medical Interpreter will be hired to increase access to oral health for the region's large and growing number of Spanish speaking residents, many of whom have limited English language skills which greatly limits and restricts their ability to obtain oral health services. Residents will also benefit from the clinical experiences gained working with a Medical Interpreter to provide patient care.

Focus Areas: The project will focus upon 2 key focus areas: (1) Underserved/Vulnerable Populations (2) Rural Training Sites

Key Outcomes: (1) Increase the number of dental residents trained by 30% (2) 50% of dental residents will be URM or rural or disadvantaged backgrounds; (3) 100% of dental and family medicine residents will complete expanded Cultural Competency/Health Literacy curricula (4) At least 3 additional community-based clinical training sites will be added to resident training program (5) 100% of dental residents will gain significant clinical experience caring for vulnerable, underserved and rural patients (6) 30,000 vulnerable, disadvantaged and rural patients will be provided with comprehensive oral health services (7) 90% of program completers will enter into and remain in primary care dentistry for at least 2 years (8) 60% of the program completers will practice in underserved areas and/or with health disparity populations (9) Mercy Health and its partners will implement collaborative resident education and community-based clinical training programs (10) 29 family medicine residents will be trained to identify and address oral health needs of patients (11) At least 3 new integrated oral and primary care clinical training sites will be established (12) A new curriculum module will be developed to prepare dentists to enter into and lead community-based service sites (13) 100% of dental residents will obtain clinical experience serving special needs patients (14) At least 1,325 residents, primary care dentists, physicians and other health professionals will complete SBIRT training to help combat the opioid crisis (15) Interprofessional training programs will be provided for 1027 health professionals (16) 39 dental residents will complete the enhanced and expanded Rural Residency Program (17) Teledentistry program will be implemented in at least 4 sites in rural Columbiana County (18) Evaluation activities will be conducted to fulfill HRSA requirements; monitor program implementation status; and (c) assess project outcomes & impact (19) Project materials, methods and results will be widely disseminated to relevant audiences through multiple distribution mechanisms.

Funding Priority Request: Funding priority consideration is requested for all 8 priority categories, totaling 20 points.