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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Oral Health Initiative receives \$100,000 from Point32Health Foundation to advance healthy aging collaborations and improve oral health for older adults

HARTFORD, CT – The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI), a nonprofit organization focused on strengthening and safeguarding access to quality, affordable, equitable oral health services for all Connecticut residents, recently received a \$100,000 general operating grant from Point32Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of CarePartners of Connecticut. The funds support community-led approaches to breaking barriers and improving oral health access for older adults in Connecticut.

"Oral health is an essential part of overall health, especially as we age. But many older adults experience significant barriers to receiving necessary oral health services to maintain their health," said Gary Turco, COHI Executive Director. "COHI is grateful to Point32Health Foundation for supporting our work towards ensuring that all of Connecticut's older adults have access to affordable, high-quality, and culturally competent oral health care, while empowering them with the knowledge and tools they need to care for their oral health and age with dignity."

The grant will support work centered on creating an awareness of the existing problems older adults face with accessing oral health care, and an urgency toward solutions over the next two years. COHI's project priorities include expanding services and programs, improving oral health education for caregivers and providers, and advocating for policies that integrate dental and medical care in senior settings. Additionally, COHI will engage older adults directly through community-based interventions to increase access and build local capacity.

"Dental decay is not an equal opportunity disease. In fact, it is one of the most common chronic diseases in the United States with a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities," said Dr. Brianna Muñoz, COHI Board President. "Through this grant, COHI will have the opportunity to address oral health care disparities faced by older adults and to advocate on behalf of increased equity, improved quality, and expanded access to oral health care in Connecticut. By fostering a meaningful partnership with Point32Health Foundation, COHI can continue striving towards achieving oral health for all."

The grant is one of [39 new investments awarded to states across New England](#), totaling \$6,845,000 from Point32Health Foundation. This investment is part of a broader strategy of the Foundation to invest in organizations that are collaborative, have deep community relationships and authentically engage in actions for healthier outcomes.

“Point32Health is committed to making the communities where we live and work great places to grow up and grow old,” said Kristin Lewis, president of Point32Health Foundation and Executive Vice President of Point32Health. “These grants will advance community-led solutions and create environments where we can all thrive as we age.”

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About The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative

The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc. (COHI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advocates for equal access to quality oral health care in Connecticut. COHI’s vision is for all Connecticut residents to have equal opportunity to obtain the services needed to maintain good oral health. More information can be found at www.ctoralhealth.org.

About Point32Health Foundation

Building on values of service and giving, [Point32Health Foundation](http://Point32HealthFoundation.org) works with communities to support, advocate and advance healthier lives for everyone. Point32Health Foundation is the result of the combination of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and Tufts Health Plan Foundation and supports communities in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Media Contact:

Gary Turco

Executive Director

Connecticut Oral Health Initiative

860-246-2644

Gary@ctoralhealth.org