



Help Us Start the New Year Off with Our New Executive Director!



We hope you saw the message Tuesday about our new Executive Director, T.J. Clarke, who will start on January 3rd. We want to welcome T.J. and start off our year with continued momentum from our fundraising appeal -

please keep reading why COHI needs your help for a successful 2023!

Dear Steve,

At this very moment, countless Connecticut residents are experiencing the pain of an oral health crisis because they lack access to dental care. With your help, the Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) can continue to make strides in fighting for more equitable oral health care for all.



Will you make a year-end tax-deductible donation to help us achieve our 2023 goals? [Click here.](#)

In Connecticut:

- Most individuals insured by HUSKY Dental have no way to pay

for the treatment of gum disease.

- Two-thirds of children in the third grade do not have dental sealants to protect against tooth decay.
- Adults with serious untreated oral health issues are more likely to miss work.
- Children experiencing dental pain are more likely to miss school and have poor academic outcomes.

People of color and those with lower incomes have been more impacted by these problems. With your support, COHI can combat oral health disparities by ensuring equity, increasing accessibility, and improving upon quality of dental care.

[Click here to donate](#), or read on ...

In 2022, COHI successfully led advocacy campaigns that accomplished the following:

- For the first time in 14 years, Medicaid adult dental reimbursement rates were increased by 25% with an additional increase for endodontic services.
- A second annual dental cleaning has been covered for Medicaid recipients who have medical conditions that can be worsened by poor oral health.
- Medicaid coverage of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) treatment was expanded so patients of any age can have increased access to this non-invasive procedure that arrests tooth decay.

This year, COHI also published two major reports on oral health care in Connecticut:

- “A Medicaid Gap Analysis of Oral Health Care for Adults in Connecticut” identifies the barriers to obtaining dental services among HUSKY recipients.
- “Every Smile Counts: The Oral Health of Connecticut’s Children” documents the oral health inequities that prevent kindergarten and third-grade children from reaching previously established oral health goals.

In 2023, COHI will focus on the following areas:

Continuing expansion of HUSKY Dental to cover needed treatment.

- Increasing access to dental care for Medicaid recipients.
- Supporting oral health care for low-income individuals receiving treatment at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and School-Based Health Centers (SBHC).
- Furthering workforce initiatives to diversify the dental field.

[Please click here to donate](#) and to support our work in 2023, **or send a check to COHI, 53 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106**. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Dr. Brianna Muñoz, DMD, MPH
President, COHI Board of Directors

The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax identification number is 52-2380576.



CLICK HERE TO DONATE!

The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative, Inc.
53 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106
CTOralHealth.org



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