

What is a State Oral Health Plan?

“A state oral health plan is a roadmap for accomplishing the goals and objectives that have been developed by the state oral health program in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, including the state oral health coalition and members of the public health and Dental communities.

A comprehensive plan that has as its goal reducing the prevalence of oral diseases includes specific objectives related to oral health promotion, disease prevention and control, and specific risk factors. A well-crafted plan provides specific, measurable, and time-phased objectives and activities for accomplishing each stated goal.

Having a state plan gives the state the ability to compete more effectively for funding and opportunities as they arise because it will be able to demonstrate through the plan that it has support mechanisms in place to use the funding for oral health programs.

It is important to distribute the plan broadly to a range of stakeholders and to share it with public policy makers. It is advisable to periodically review the progress of attaining objectives specified by the plan and to schedule a major revision at specified intervals. A 5-year timeframe is common.”

Department of Health’s Role

- To be effective, a state plan needs to be highly collaborative.
- The State Oral Health Plan is not meant to be a DOH-only project.
- DOH will sponsor, gather data and partners, facilitate discussions, and publish the final document.
- Input and strategies will come from the public and oral health stakeholders statewide.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention