

# DENTAL THERAPISTS: GETTING COMMUNITIES THE CARE THEY NEED

All Washingtonians should be able to get dental care when they need it, regardless of where they live or how much money they have. Yet many can't. Dental Therapists are licensed providers that extend the reach of the existing dental team. They can help people get the care they need to be healthy.

Dental Therapists will:

- **Expand dental care access** to families and communities.
- **Save money** by providing high quality routine, cost-effective care and preventing dental emergencies.
- **Support stronger communities** by creating family wage jobs and ensuring good oral health for everyone.

It's time to bring Dental Therapists to Washington.

## HOW DENTAL THERAPISTS WILL HELP



### Bring care to where it is needed.

Dental Therapists work as part of the existing dental team. This allows them to get out into the community: to schools, community centers, and other locations that are closer to home.

### Help our communities save money.

Dental Therapists generate more money for clinics: by providing routine care, they free up dentists to do more high-level procedures. This preventive care also saves states money by helping patients avoid costly emergency room visits.

### Boost community job opportunities.

Allowing Dental Therapists to practice in Washington will create jobs: for Dental Therapists, hygienists, office secretaries, dental assistants, and even the landlord collecting rent from a once-empty storefront.

*“What we’re seeing on the ground is that not only is this an effective dental workforce provider, but it’s also well accepted by patients and by dentists when they have actual exposure to it.”*

—Sara Wovcha, Director of Children’s Dental Services,  
the first clinic to employ Dental Therapists in Minnesota.

**Join us today in supporting Dental Therapists for Washington.**

