



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$1,100 Smiles for Kids Grant to the Montgomery County Health Department**

**Troy, NC (April 30, 2018)** – The Montgomery County Health Department received a \$1,100 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to provide oral health education for Montgomery County children in daycare and preschool facilities.

Montgomery County is rural, Tier-1 county where there are only 1.1 dentists per 10,000 residents. This programming is important to teach children about basic dental care, such as regular brushing and flossing, and the essential role it has in the prevention of childhood cavities and tooth decay. Students will participate in interactive activities to learn proper brushing methods and then receive oral health materials to take home.

“We are excited for this opportunity from the Delta Dental Foundation to teach three and four year olds about dental health,” says Rhiannon Bardel, a Health Educator at the Montgomery County Health Department. “Promoting healthy dental care habits in young children can greatly influence their dental health in the future. Prevention is a huge part of public health and we hope this proactive approach will prevent the development of cavities, tooth decay, and oral health diseases in these children.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high-quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by the Montgomery County Health Department is one of 19 grants totaling \$65,800 that DDNC is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

“The Delta Dental Foundation is committed to promoting good oral health habits and providing better access to quality dental care for those who are underserved in our state,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “By providing support to the Montgomery County Health Department for the important work that it does, we can help to change the direction of a child’s health and quality of life overall.”

**About the Montgomery County Health Department**

The mission of the Montgomery County Health Department is to provide high-quality public health services to individuals and families in Montgomery County. This is achieved through the vision of reducing health disparities to improve personal and public health in Montgomery County through education, diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance. For more information, visit [www.montgomerycountync.com](http://www.montgomerycountync.com).

**About the Delta Dental Foundation**

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit [www.deltadentalnc.com](http://www.deltadentalnc.com).

**About Delta Dental of North Carolina**

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

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