

PRINCIPLES

Adults with I/DD have the right to a healthy life in order to be active and productive citizens in Louisiana and their community of choice.

Access to affordable dental health care is a critical component to maintaining overall health and economic security.

Adults with I/DD should be afforded preventive and restorative dental remedies so that they can retain their natural teeth, be free of infectious disease, be able to chew their food properly, and maintain proper nutrition.

* Healthy Louisiana Dental Plan Comparison Chart (July, 2020). https://www.myplan.healthy.la.gov/sites/default/files/Documents/LAEB_DentalCompChart_2020_ENG_WEB_101420.pdf

Louisiana Task Force for Dental Services Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (December 11, 2020). Formal Report to the Louisiana Department of Health and Other Relevant Agencies. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ONQPIfeviJRC-uynpba7VjIG4HetbhJ?>

Louisiana Dental Task Force
for Adults with
Developmental Disabilities

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Comprehensive Dental Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

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What We Need Legislators to Do?

Provide Comprehensive Dental Services through Louisiana's Developmental Disabilities Waiver Programs as well as an allocation to Intermediate Care Facilities for Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD) so that adults with I/DD can receive the dental health care services they need to prevent negative outcomes for both medical and behavioral health as well as economic hardship experienced by adults with I/DD and their families in Louisiana.

Why We Need Legislators to Fund This?

Adults with I/DD have gone too long without the necessary and needed dental health care leading to fair to poor overall health/sometimes life-threatening health issues.

Studies have shown adults with I/DD are at risk for multiple health problems including poor oral health and are four times more likely to report their health to be only fair or poorer than people without disabilities.

Some adults with I/DD have aversions to probing in their mouths and need special accommodations to support their access to affordable dental health care.

Adults with I/DD who have aversions experience extraordinary costs just for a routine dental exam and cleaning which at minimum includes an outpatient surgery center or hospital stay with anesthesia, diagnostic tests, labs, etc.

Adults with I/DD have limited income because of their disability.

Traditional Medicaid offers only an Adult Denture Plan (ADP) for adults 21 y.o. and older and is limited to an exam, diagnostic radiograph, and preapproved dentures or partial and denture combination. Any necessary restorations, dental cleanings, and outpatient hospital stays requiring anesthesia are not covered. A set of dentures is limited to one set every 5 years for adults who are 18-20 yrs. old, and every 8 years for adults age 21 and older. However, individuals diagnosed with severe to profound I/DD typically do not tolerate the construction process nor are able to wear or maintain dentures. The Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) plans are also limited in services, providers, and restrictive in eligibility or cost prohibitive for individuals with behavioral challenges and complex medical issues.*

Limited Medicaid coverage for dental health care leads to extraordinary and **unnecessary, overall medical costs** for the individual with I/DD, their families, and the State.