

THE BRIDGE

News from Delta Dental of Tennessee

Ensuring healthy smiles

Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

FALL 2021

for the State of Tennessee

More than 200,000 eligible for voluntary dental benefits plan effective January 1, 2022

Delta Dental of Tennessee, the state's largest independent dental benefits carrier, has been awarded the contract by the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Benefits Administration for the State's fully-insured voluntary dental preferred provider organization program. The four-year contract takes effect on January 1, 2022.

"State employees are some of the hardest working members of our communities, and we look forward to providing a comprehensive, value-based dental benefit plan that promotes good oral and overall health," said Dr. Phil Wenk, President and CEO of Delta Dental of Tennessee. **"Participants will have access to one of the largest provider networks in the state, ensuring they can access the care they need in their community, from routine preventive checkups and cleanings to a cavity filling or other procedures."**

PARTNERS FOR HEALTH

The plan is offered to State employees and retirees, as well as employees of agencies affiliated with the State benefits program. It is developed for the Delta Dental PPOSM network, which includes 74 percent of dentists in Tennessee.

Eligible employees and retirees can enroll in the plan during the annual enrollment period this fall.

Dentists can log into the Dental Office Toolkit for eligibility after Jan. 1.

Benefit Summary

Find the full Benefit Summary inside

	Delta Dental PPO TM Dentist	Delta Dental Premier [®] Dentist	Non- Participating Dentist
Diagnostic and Preventive	Plan Pays 100%	Plan Pays 80%	Plan Pays 80%
Basic Services	Plan Pays 80%	Plan Pays 60%	Plan Pays 60%
Major Services	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%
Orthodontic Services	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%

Visit

DeltaDentalTN.com

for more information.

A *Safety Net* of state funding

It's truly something to smile about. Tennessee's Safety Net Denture Program will receive \$500,000 in state funding in 2022. Championed by the late Representative Charles Sargent, the program was developed to provide affordable dentures and partials for working-age Tennesseans.

But, when its state funding was cut due to the pandemic, the program's future was unknown. As a longtime supporter of Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN), an association of more than 50 safety net healthcare clinics including 19 dental clinics, Delta Dental of Tennessee stepped in to cover the remaining gap in funding, more than \$220,000 at the end of May 2021. Now, state funding has been fully restored in this year's budget.

"We are so appreciative of Governor Lee and the legislature's continued support for the denture program," said Dr. Phil Wenk, CEO and president of Delta Dental of Tennessee. "This program is really about changing lives, and with funding back in the budget for next year, more hardworking Tennesseans like Samantha will be able to experience the transformative power of a smile."



We met Samantha, a Murfreesboro-based single mom of three, during Smile Power Week, and she credits Interfaith Dental Clinic with saving her life.

Four years ago, she was missing almost all her teeth and had significant pain and swelling in her face that made it difficult to eat or work; she eventually ended up in the ER, requiring emergency surgery, before a friend helped connect her to

the clinic.

"I was close to losing my life over my teeth," Samantha said. "Then I got a phone call, and Interfaith said 'we hear you need an appointment, we hear you're in pain' and I cried, because for once in my life something was going right. Something good was happening to me, and I needed it. Interfaith gave me that light."

Through the Safety Net Denture Program, Interfaith restored her smile and her confidence. Samantha's story is just one of many - the denture program has helped 4,700 Tennesseans like Samantha restore their smiles, confidence, and entire outlook on life since it launched in late 2016.



Delta Dental of Tennessee administers the Safety Net Denture Program at no cost to the state through its Smile180 Foundation. In 2020, Tennessee's Safety Net dental clinics served more than 39,850 patients who may otherwise not have received care. And, with the promise of \$500,000 in state funding, clinics can continue serving those patients in the year to come.



Photos Courtesy of Tennessee Dental Safety Net Clinics

New Delta Dental Groups

Delta Dental of Tennessee welcomes the following new groups. If you have any questions regarding coverage, you may check eligibility online at www.DentalOfficeToolkit.com or call Customer Service at 800-223-3104.

City of Cleveland / Cleveland Utilities	Cleveland
Fossett Paving Co., LLC	Collierville
Cintilight, LLC	Knoxville
Crawl Space Ninja	Knoxville
ipSBS Managed Services, LLC	Knoxville
Summit Medical Group Operations, LLC	Knoxville

GUSCO, Inc. dba Aussie Pet Mobile	Memphis
Perea Elementary School	Memphis
The Wing Guru, Inc.	Memphis
Valley Mine Service, Inc.	Speedwell
Sweetwater Living, LLC	Sweetwater

New Delta Dental Providers

Delta Dental of Tennessee also welcomes our new and returning contracted providers.

Taylor Bolland	Antioch
Alexandria Ellzey	Bartlett
Jackson Hall	Brentwood
Nolan Kemp	Brentwood
Bayi Hedge	Camden
Emily Javadi	Chattanooga
Cara McCary	Chattanooga
Macall Nabors	Chattanooga
Margaret Greene	Clarksville
Katlyn Fullen	Cleveland
Andrew Megison	Cleveland
Brett Dillard	Columbia
Lara Worley	Cookeville
Austin Collazo	Copperhill
Annmarie Lyon	Dickson
Ravi Patel	Dickson
Amanda Ward	Dickson
Tae Park	Franklin
Reid Turner	Franklin
Benjamin Addison	Germantown
Savannah Hughes	Germantown
Candace Gallowitz	Hendersonville
Sara Ahmed	Hermitage
David R. Marshall	Kingsport
Chelsea Bryant	Knoxville
Reece Henson	Knoxville
Jacob Perry	Knoxville
Joseph Whitaker	Knoxville
David Howe	Loudon
Isaac Workman	Martin
Gregory Spencer	Maryville
Benjamin Gassmann	Memphis

Reid Higginbotham	Memphis
Brandon Powell	Memphis
Mariah Bowlin	Morristown
Garrett Salansky	Morristown
David Long	Mount Juliet
Rosalyn Ha	Murfreesboro
Brice Roberts	Murfreesboro
Kenzie Davidovich	Nashville
David Dewberry	Nashville
Paulette Duncan	Nashville
Kinnara Emmons	Nashville
Nicholas Ferguson	Nashville
Sarah Herrmann	Nashville
Sharmin Islam	Nashville
Songhyon Kim	Nashville
Alexander Miller	Nashville
Anupama Vurugonda	Nashville
Cindy Loyola	Nolensville
Mohammad Albaba	Oak Ridge
Corey Truman	Old Hickory
Ashley Fleck	Oneida
Timothy Jones	Seymour
Alexander Hayes	Smithville
Megan Jones	Smyrna
Damian Kim	Smyrna
Sugandha Singh	Smyrna
Leena Patel	Smyrna
Trent Straw	Spring Hill
Austin Carr	Thompson Station
Dana Saucier	Tullahoma
Deandra Jones	White House
David S. Marshall	Woodbury



Dental Preferred Provider Organization
(DPPO) Dental Benefit Summary for
State of Tennessee #8060
Coverage effective January 1, 2022



Important Information:

Maximum Payment - \$1,500 per person total per benefit year on all services, except cephalometric film, photos, diagnostic casts, and orthodontics. \$1,250 per person total per lifetime on cephalometric films, photos, and orthodontic services.

Deductible -

Delta Dental PPO Dentist - \$25 Deductible per person total per benefit year, limited to a maximum deductible of \$75 per family per benefit year. The deductible does not apply to oral exams, preventive, X-rays, sealants, full mouth debridement, cephalometric films, photos, and orthodontics.

Delta Dental Premier or Nonparticipating Dentist - \$100 Deductible per person total per Benefit Year limited to a maximum Deductible of \$300 per family per Benefit Year. The Deductible does not apply to oral exams, preventive, X-rays, sealants, full mouth debridement, cephalometric films, photos, and orthodontics.

Note - This document is only intended to provide a brief description of your benefits. Please refer to your Certificate of Coverage for a complete description of benefits, exclusions, and limitations.

	Delta Dental PPO™ Dentist	Delta Dental Premier® Dentist	Non- Participating Dentist
Diagnostic and Preventive			
Diagnostic and Preventive Services - exams, cleanings, fluoride, and space maintainers	Plan Pays 100%	Plan Pays 80%	Plan Pays 80%
Sealants - to prevent decay of permanent teeth			
Brush Biopsy - to detect oral cancer			
Radiographs - X-rays			
Basic Services			
Emergency Palliative Treatment - to temporarily relieve pain			
Periodontal Maintenance - cleanings following periodontal therapy	Plan Pays 80%	Plan Pays 60%	Plan Pays 60%
Minor Restorative Services - fillings			
Endodontic Services - root canals			
Periodontic Services - to treat gum disease			
Simple Extractions - non-surgical removal of teeth			
Other Basic Services - misc. services			
Major Services			
Crown Repair - to individual crowns			
Oral Surgery Services - surgical extractions and dental surgery			
General Anesthesia or IV Sedation - when necessary, in connection with covered oral surgery, extractions or other covered services			
Major Restorative Services - crowns	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%
Occlusal Adjustment - occlusal equilibration			
Adjustments and Repairs - to bridges, implants and dentures			
Prosthodontic Services - bridges, implants, and dentures			
• 6-month waiting period applies to inlay/onlay restorations, dentures, crowns and implants;			
• 12-month waiting period applies to initial placement of bridge or denture to replace one or more natural teeth.			
Orthodontic Services			
Orthodontic Services - braces	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%	Plan Pays 50%
• 12-month waiting period; Orthodontic age limit: to the end of the month of age 19			

When you receive services from a Delta Dental Premier or Non-participating Dentist, the percentages in those columns indicate the portion of Delta Dental's PPO Dentist Schedule that will be paid for those services. This amount may be less than what the dentist charges or Delta Dental approves. You are responsible for that difference.

Grant program encourages students to **drink more water**

Middle schools can apply online at
DeltaDentalTN.com/WCS
Oct. 1 - Nov. 23

Good health habits start at a young age, and to help encourage kids to drink more water, Delta Dental of Tennessee has developed a grant program known as “Water’s Cool @ School” to replace school water fountains with contactless Elkay bottle filling stations.

Our first iteration of the program, launched last year, awarded 55 grants to elementary schools across the state in celebration of Delta Dental’s 55th anniversary. As part of the grant application process, students and schools were invited to submit creative projects such as a video or artwork about what makes water “cool” to them - and we received some truly terrific and fun responses!

We received more than 150 applications from elementary schools last year, and narrowing it down to the final list of 55 grant recipients was a challenge. Because of the incredible response to the 2020 program, we have decided to offer another round of grants this fall, providing 25 middle schools the opportunity to replace an existing water fountain with a bottle filling station.

Grant applications will open Oct. 1, and we’d love your help getting the word out to your patients including students, families, and school staff who may be interested in this opportunity!

Huntsville Elementary



Petros-Joyner Elementary

See more submissions
from our 2020 applicants
by searching
#WatersCoolTN
on social media

**WATER'S COOL
@school**

By Delta Dental of Tennessee





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Shooting for perfect smiles with Brandan Wright

There was a different kind of uniform waiting for former Memphis Grizzlies player Brandan Wright at the Neighborhood Health Clinic at Napier Place Wednesday, July 14. Wright suited up in a white coat to be the Celebrity Dentist for a Day.

Teaming up with Delta Dental of Tennessee and Neighborhood Health, Wright guided Nashville kids through the clinic and into the dentist's chair for free dental screenings and fluoride.

From toddlers to teenagers, the patients learned about the importance of brushing and flossing, and that the dentist's chair isn't so intimidating. Overall health is a premise of Team Brandan Wright, his charitable foundation, and Wright wants to make sure oral health is included in that.

"I'm just interested in people being as healthy as they can," Wright said. "Last year was a prime example of what can happen when things go sideways. If you do the 'prehab,' the things before, you can make sure you prevent some of these things from escalating to levels that can turn deadly or that you can't come back from."

Each patient was given an oral hygiene kit from Delta Dental of Tennessee, a backpack from Team Brandan Wright, and the chance to shoot hoops with Wright and Marshall Molar.



From left to right: Brandan Wright, Marshall Molar, Neighborhood Health Dental Director Dr. Michele Blackledge, and Delta Dental of Tennessee President and CEO Dr. Philip Wenk



Dr. Wenk and Dr. Blackledge show Wright how to perform a proper injection using a strawberry.

