

# SEAL Minnesota: School Sealant Program Grants

GRANT CYCLE 2019 – 2020

## About SEAL Minnesota

Developed by the Minnesota Department of Health Oral Health Program, SEAL Minnesota, or SEAL MN, is an initiative to coordinate and expand evidence-based school sealant programs across the state. This initiative aims to increase access to high-quality oral health services and reduce oral health disparities through stakeholder engagement and alignment. The Oral Health Program provides funds, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to school sealant providers throughout the state.

## 2019 – 2020 Grant Cycle

### Grant Objectives

The Minnesota Oral Health Program, through a Cooperative Agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), offers funding to school sealant program providers to:

- Increase the number of high-risk schools (defined as schools where 50% or more of children are eligible for the free or reduced priced lunch program) in Minnesota with a dental sealant program.
- Increase the number of Minnesota children ages 6-14 receiving dental sealants through the program.



## Reach

11 organizations were awarded funding for the 2019-2020 cycle.

- 168 elementary and middle schools were served.
  - 62 (36.9%) of schools served were high-risk.
- 6,107 children were screened.
- 10,241 children attended chairside and/or group education sessions.



## Services

Grantees provided oral health screenings, dental cleanings, fluoride varnish, dental sealants, oral hygiene instruction, education, referral assistance, case management and oral hygiene kits to children at schools.

- 95.5% of children received fluoride varnish.
- 39.2% of children received at least one dental sealant on a permanent molar.
- 52.5% of screened children were referred to dental clinics for further treatment.
- 6.2% of screened children were referred for urgent dental treatment.



## Accomplishments

Grantees linked children with high needs to dental homes, improved oral health

behaviors and healthy habits through their services and education efforts, and implemented follow-up process.

## Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic caused school closures which prevented school sealant providers from performing services in schools.

## Testimonies

“I thought the education was excellent! The kids learned a lot and there was a lot of recall from last year's appointment. The toothbrush kits are always a plus! I think it is a valuable and effective experience for the kids!” - Second grade teacher

“We know the children were impacted by the preventive services and education as parents always come back and say their kids are talking about the sugar bugs in their mouths. Thank you for being a part of our school this year.” - Preschool teacher

“...being able to receive these services at school can therefore positively impact their school success.” “[Provider] has provided this service at our school to great success.” “[School] looks forward to continuing our work with [Provider] and we fully support their efforts.” - Elementary school principal

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