



Virginia  
Health Catalyst  
The Intersection of Overall  
Health and Oral Health

# Monthly Update February 2020

## One Step Closer to Funding for an Adult Dental Benefit in Medicaid

The Virginia Senate included funding for a comprehensive adult dental benefit in Medicaid in their budget this legislative session. This means we are one step closer to securing funding for an adult dental benefit. However, there is more work to be done.

The Senate budget and the House budget, which did not include funding for an adult dental benefit, are now in conference committee. Catalyst has a simple [3-2-1 advocacy initiative](#) that you can take part in right now to help secure funding:

- **Three:** Send three emails to conferees. Catalyst created an email template with contact information for each conferee so you can easily send at least three emails.
- **Two:** Call two conferees. Use Catalyst's phone script to call at least two conferees to show support for an adult dental benefit.
- **One:** Share one Catalyst social post. Throughout the conference process Catalyst has shared on its social channels how a dental benefit will improve health outcomes and lower costs. Share a social post with your network to build awareness.

If each person in the Catalyst network takes part in the 3-2-1 initiative the conferees will be well aware of the importance of an adult dental benefit. For questions or additional information contact Chloe Van Zandt at [cvanzandt@vahealthcatalyst.org](mailto:cvanzandt@vahealthcatalyst.org) or 804.268.8724.

## Upcoming Events

### Regional Oral Health Alliance

[NOVA Adult Oral Health Workgroup](#) |  
[March 12](#)

[NOVA Children's Oral Health Workgroup](#) |  
[March 19](#)

[Greater Richmond/Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Meeting](#) | [April 2](#)

### Workgroup Meetings

[Early Dental Home Committee Meeting](#) |  
[May 31](#)

### Catalyst Wide

[Webinar: Increasing Access to Oral Health Care in Virginia: The Home Visitor's Role](#) |  
[March 18](#)

[Virginia Oral Health Summit](#) | [October 8](#)

**Special Needs Dentistry Series**  
[Abingdon](#) | [March 13-14](#)

[Farmville](#) | [May 1-2](#)

**Save the Date! The [2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit](#) will take place on [October 8](#). [Apply today](#) to be a speaker or panelist, and stay tuned for**

**more information!**

## Oral Health News & Resources

### Resources Available to Improve Census Count



A federal census count is happening in 2020; data from the census will impact everything from representation in government to funding for important public health programs. In years past, the census has disproportionately undercounted groups of color and individuals with disabilities. Because the census only takes place once every ten years it is important to get an accurate count of all Virginians so funding for public programs can be distributed accurately. There are a number of resources available to help health advocates and community members raise awareness about the importance of completing the census forms, including materials from [Governor Northam's office](#) and [The Arc](#).

### Virginia State Loan Repayment Program is Accepting Applications

The Virginia Department of Health is accepting applications for the Virginia State Loan Repayment Program. Applications will be accepted through March 31. The program grants loan repayment in exchange for at least two years of service in a Health Professional Shortage Area in Virginia. Learn more about eligibility and how to apply [here](#).



### Fluoride Varnish Resource Guide Now Available



The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center has released a [new resource guide on fluoride varnish](#) and silver diamine fluoride. Fluoride varnish is a safe and cost-effective way to prevent tooth decay. The new resource guide provides information for both providers and patient education, including professional education opportunities and additional organizations and trainings of interest.

Donate today to help ensure all Virginians have access to equitable health care that includes oral health:

**Donate**



*Copyright © 2020 Virginia Health Catalyst (formerly the Virginia Oral Health Coalition), All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

