



Virginia
Health Catalyst
The Intersection of Overall
Health and Oral Health

Monthly Update January 2020

The Virginia Oral Health Coalition is now Virginia Health Catalyst. Learn more about the next phase of work in a [message from our CEO](#).

2020 State and Federal Policy Update

This has been a busy month for state and federal policy. Of note:

- [Adult Dental in Medicaid](#): It is crucial that over the next week legislators hear from all of us about the importance of adding an adult dental benefit to Medicaid. A script for phone calls is available [here](#), along with contact information for crucial delegates who will be deciding whether an adult dental benefit is included in the budget. **[Please take a few minutes to contact legislators today.](#)**
- **Public Charge Ruling**: This week the Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration's "public charge" rule can take effect while legal challenges to it make their way through the courts system. The "public charge" rule would make it harder for immigrants to get a green card if they use public benefits like Medicaid or SNAP. Our partners at Families USA shared the following points regarding the "public charge" rule:
 - DHS's Public Charge regulation does not affect all immigrants. Refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes, and other "humanitarian" immigrants are not affected.
 - Use of public benefits will not automatically make an immigrant a public charge. Immigration officials must look at all circumstances in determining whether someone is likely to become a public charge in the future.

Upcoming Events

Registration is open for the FREE Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It events across Virginia! Receive 11 CERP credits while learning how to provide care to individuals with special health care needs. Register and find an event near you [here](#).

Catalyst Wide Events

February 26 | [Water Equity Taskforce](#)

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

Special Needs Dentistry Series

February 28-29 | [Chesapeake](#)

March 13-14 | [Abingdon](#)

May 1-2 | [Farmville](#)

Save the Date!
The [2020 Virginia Oral Health Summit](#) will take place on

- Life-saving food and nutrition programs like WIC, CHIP, school lunches, food banks, shelters, childcare assistance and many more are not included in the public charge test.
- Benefits that children receive will **not** count against an immigrant parent if their green card application is processed in the U.S.
- While the rule is permitted to take effect, it is important to remember that this fight is by no means over. The appellate cases are moving on expedited schedules and could be decided within a couple of months.
- Medicaid Block Grants: The Trump administration has released a new guidance which allows states to block-grant their Medicaid programs. Under the new guidance, states can apply for a waiver, which if granted, would give the state more discretion on how to operate its Medicaid program. While this may sound positive, the intent is not. Block-granting Medicaid would reduce resources and could have a significant negative impact on the health of Medicaid enrollees. Learn more about the impact the change could have on the health of Virginians [here](#).

To learn more and get involved with Catalyst's advocacy efforts, contact [Chloe Van Zandt](#).

Water Fluoridation Turns 75!

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This year marks the 75th anniversary of community water fluoridation in the United States. Adding fluoride to water helps strengthen tooth enamel, which results in less tooth decay and more cost savings. To commemorate the 75th anniversary, the [American Fluoridation Society](#) has created infographics and images for social media that organizations can use to promote drinking fluoridated water. Virginia Health Catalyst is proud to work with partners across Virginia to ensure all Virginians have access to safe, trusted fluoridated tap water. To get involved join the [Water Equity Taskforce upcoming meeting](#), or learn more about

October 8. [Apply today](#) to be a speaker or panelist, and stay tuned for more information!

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

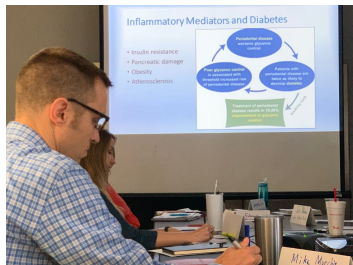
Donate



water fluoridation in Virginia in Virginia Health Catalyst's [water fluoridation white paper](#).

Oral Health News & Resources

Apply to join the 2020 Oral Health Integration Learning Collaborative



Virginia Health Catalyst is accepting applications to join the [2020 Oral Health Integration Learning Collaborative](#), a space for clinics to connect with other providers, improve care integration, and advance health equity goals. Participating clinics must be in a dental health professional shortage area (DHPSA), and will receive a stipend to design and implement initiatives that aim to improve the delivery of oral health services, educate providers and patients, and address social determinants of health in their communities. Learn more and submit your application [here](#) no later than **February 13 at 5:00 PM**.

FREE Learning Opportunity for Home Visitors, Community Health Workers, and Community Service Providers

Virginia Health Catalyst, Early Impact Virginia, and Families Forward Virginia will host a **FREE webinar** about oral health on **Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 AM**. During the webinar, we'll discuss the relationship between oral and overall health, how to connect clients to education and coverage, and review Virginia-specific policies and coverage options. This webinar will be helpful for home visitors, community health workers, and other community service providers in Virginia. Register [here](#).



Children's Dental Health Month Opportunities with Virginia Health Catalyst



During Children's Dental Health Month this February, Virginia Health Catalyst's [Northern Virginia Regional Alliance](#) and [South Hampton Roads Regional Alliance](#) will promote good oral health habits in families with a "Brush, Book, Bed" program; the program offers books to providers and organizations that serve children and families and promotes starting oral health habits early. Visit the [Virginia Health Catalyst resource page](#) to find additional resources for providing oral health care to children.

New Report Shows Utilization and Impact of Oral Health Programs Among People with HIV

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released its first Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Oral Health Data Report. The report details data from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program oral health programs and includes data on service utilization, demographics, and details on the types of oral health programs funded. View the full report [here](#).



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