

Halton Public Health – Oral Health Program

What We Do

Halton Public Health promotes good oral health and helps Halton residents to access dental care. Our dedicated Oral Health Program staff are available to answer questions about oral health, and help clients to access government financial assistance programs for dental care.

Oral Health Promotion

Program staff:

- ✓ Collaborate with Halton School Boards to include oral health information within the school curriculum.
- ✓ Provide oral health education for groups in Halton upon request. Call 311 to speak with Oral Health Program staff.
- ✓ Collaborate with community groups in Halton to promote oral health. For more information, call 311 to speak with our Dental Health Educator.
- ✓ Provide oral health information through Halton Public Health's website. Go to Halton.ca and search "Oral Health".

Access to Dental Care

Program staff:

- ✓ Conduct dental screenings at Public Health Clinics or by tele-screening to assess eligibility for available government dental programs. Call 311 to schedule an appointment.
- ✓ Conduct community dental screenings at selected sites to help families access dental care close to home.
- ✓ Assist Halton residents to apply for dental financial assistance. For more information, see the attached Dental Financial Assistance chart or call 311 to speak with Oral Health Program staff.
- ✓ Conduct dental screenings for selected grades in all publically funded schools in Halton. Parents are notified if their child needs urgent dental treatment or would benefit from preventive dental services. Support is available for families applying to the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program. To find out when the Registered Dental Hygienist will be at your child's school or to request a dental screening for your child, parents can call 311 to speak with Oral Health Program staff.

For more information, visit Halton.ca or call 311.

Halton Public Health – Oral Health/Dental Financial Assistance Programs

Halton Public Health – Oral Health/Dental Financial Assistance Programs					
Children and Youth 0-17 Years Old	Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)		Healthy Smiles Ontario is a provincially-funded dental program that provides free preventive, routine, and emergency dental care services for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. Clients can call 311 to apply.		
	HSO STREAM	ELIGIBILITY	ENROLLMENT	SERVICES PROVIDED	GENERAL NOTES
	HSO-CORE	Based on Family net income and number of dependent children (aged 0-17) *All children on social assistance programs are automatically enrolled onto the HSO program (OW, ODSP, ACSD, temp care).	By mail or online	Full HSO basket of oral health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial government confirms financial eligibility (this can take 4-6 weeks) & eligible clients will receive cards in the mail. Eligibility will be assessed each benefit year and new cards will be sent to eligible clients. Annual notices will be sent to the client regarding their enrollment status. Public Health has a role in referring clients to apply and assisting with the applications, if needed.
	HSO-EESS Emergency and Essential Services Stream	Determined by Public Health based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency or essential dental care need Declaration of financial hardship 	Application form is issued by Public Health Dental providers may also enroll clients in urgent situations.	Full HSO basket of oral health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child must be screened by Public Health to determine a dental care need & financial need. Dental providers can also enroll the child onto EESS, but many providers prefer that clients be enrolled by Public Health. HSO Cards are valid for 1 year or the day before the 18 birthday of the client listed, whichever date is earlier.
	HSO-PSO Preventative Services Only	Determined by Public Health based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventive dental care need only Declaration of financial hardship 	Only Public Health can enroll clients onto the PSO stream.	Preventive Services as outlined in letter issued to client. *x-rays are not covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child must be screened to determine a dental care need. Dental offices <i>cannot</i> enroll clients onto the PSO stream and are required to refer clients to Public Health for enrollment. PSO eligible clients receive a letter confirming eligibility. Letter is valid for 1 year or the day before the 18 birthday of the client listed, whichever date is earlier.
Adults 18 -64 Years Old	Ontario Works (OW)		Funding for Ontario Works (OW) Dental is administered differently in each Region. The OW Adults dental program is not an insurance plan. Clients may be eligible for emergency coverage. If additional coverage is necessary, a dental screening by Public Health Unit may be required. All recipients must call 311 and speak with Oral Health to determine eligibility before seeking care and treatment must be pre-approved.		
	Low Income Adults		Clients may be eligible for one-time funding for emergency dental care. Call 311 and ask for Social Services to assess eligibility and for more information.		
	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)		ODSP dental benefit is provincially funded and not administered by Halton Public Health. Visit Ontario.ca for more information. *For ODSP recipients who require denture care, call 311 and ask for Social Services to assess eligibility and for more information.		
Older Adults/Seniors 65 Years and Older	Dental Care Counts (DCC)		Dental Care Counts is a municipally funded program for Halton residents aged 65+ (or 18-64 requiring assistance with daily living). It is for clients with no dental coverage and for whom the cost of dental treatment would result in financial hardship. DCC is not an insurance plan. Clients may be eligible for emergency coverage for conditions involving pain, infection, or trauma and/or care of existing dentures to restore function. Non-emergency dental services will only be considered to restore function (i.e. chewing ability and speech). New dentures are not funded through DCC. Clients must call 311 and speak with Oral Health to apply and determine eligibility before seeking care. All treatment must be pre-approved.		
	NEW Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP)		Provincially funded program providing dental care to seniors in Ontario who are enrolled on the program. Halton Public Health does not currently have OSDCP services. Clients can call 311 and speak with Oral Health program staff to see if they qualify for Dental Care Counts (DCC) or for more information on OSDCP.		