

## 2019 Legislature Request for Additional Appropriation to the University of Utah School of Dentistry

The University of Utah School of Dentistry respectfully requests an increase of \$1,500,000 in annual State appropriation.

The appropriation will provide the funds necessary to cover the additional educational cost of further expanding the School's clinical network geographically to three new sites (\$500,000 for educational costs associated with each site) at Ogden, Utah County and the West Salt Lake Valley in partnership with three of the State's dental hygiene programs, namely Weber State, Utah Valley University and Salt Lake Community College.

The clinical expansion will significantly enhance the educational experience of both dental and dental hygiene students as they improve access to necessary dental care for underserved populations in Utah. Achieving both outcomes will require additional educational expenditure, but there will be no additional capital cost. By leveraging existing physical plant and clinical equipment resources, the geographic expansion will provide higher value to the people of Utah.

The University of Utah School of Dentistry's mission by Legislative Resolution is to educate and train future dentists for Utah and the region while also providing necessary oral health care services to underserved populations in Utah. Each of the State's dental hygiene programs educates future dental hygienists while also providing oral hygiene services to people in need. The School of Dentistry accepts 50 new students per year and the three above-mentioned dental hygiene programs accept a combined 74 new students per year.

The UU School of Dentistry provides necessary oral health care services for the dental underserved population which includes economically disadvantaged, Medicaid-eligible children and blind or disabled adults; for Medicaid-eligible individuals in substance abuse treatment programs; for homeless youths; and for refugees. Current legislation seeks to expand the School's oral health care services to Medicaid-eligible elderly in Utah. The dental school provides the State portion of the Medicaid match for necessary oral health care services, allowing such care to be provided to eligible individuals at no additional cost to the Legislature and people of Utah (about 52,000 people throughout the state).

As promised in the last legislative session, using funds appropriated by the Legislature, the School in Fall 2018 expanded its clinical network to St. George, partnering with the dental hygiene program at Dixie State University. That clinical expansion, like the proposed expansion to three additional sites now requested, leverages existing physical plant and clinical equipment resources for both service network expansion and educational enhancement, providing very high value to the people of the broader region of the State.

**UU School of Dentistry + Dental Hygiene Schools + Legislative support = expanded access to necessary oral health care to the underserved in Utah + enhanced educational experience for dental and dental hygiene students, both at high value to the people of Utah.**

