

Rural Recruitment, Experience, & Placement
University of Utah School of Dentistry
Request for Ongoing Appropriation – FY 2022

The Utah Medical Education Council has reported that "...24 (rural) of Utah's 29 counties (are) Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas." Two Utah counties have no dentists. The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) reported that "Rural populations have fewer dentists, lower dental care utilization and higher rates of dental caries and permanent tooth loss than urban populations." The NHRA recommends:

- Admit dental students likely to choose rural careers, such as those from rural locations.
- Establish and expand dental school rural externship and residency training programs.
- Promote loan reimbursement programs for dental graduates who practice in rural areas.

The University of Utah School of Dentistry (UUSOD) respectfully requests ongoing funding of \$1,155,000 per year that will (1) increase and enhance recruitment of students from rural and underserved areas of Utah; (2) provide funds in support of 5 rural-origin Utah students per class per year; (3) expand student clinical rotations in rural areas to treat Medicaid and underserved patients; (4) establish and oversee a philanthropically-matched loan reimbursement program to incentivize dental graduates to practice in rural Utah. With this appropriation we will:

1. Enhance recruitment of students from rural and designated underserved areas of the State by participating with the U of U Medical School RUUTE program and the SUU-based Rural Health Scholars program involving students in High School and College.
2. Extend UUSOD tuition, fee and clinical income to cover the full costs of education for five rural Utah students per class per year. UUSOD in-State tuition and fees are \$48,300 per student per year. Student-generated clinical income is \$17,600 per student per year. The cost of dental education is \$95,000 per student per year.
3. Expand UUSOD Rural Student clinical rotations to include but not limited to: Manti, Vernal, Cedar City and Price. Students will treat patients under the supervision of a rural dentist and will live in the community during the rotation. This is consistent with the university's rural network expansion for Medicaid patients in high-need areas.
4. Establish a Dental Loan Reimbursement program for students who establish a full-time practice in a rural underserved area of Utah. Five of our graduates who do so and remain will receive \$100,00 over 4 years (10K; 20K; 30K; 40K). We are securing matching funds from philanthropic sources to make this a 50/50 partnership with the State.

The use of the requested funds is shown on the next page.