



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 27, 2015

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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
of Northwest Michigan

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**Health Department receives grant from Delta Dental Foundation
to improve oral health in Northern Michigan**

CHARLEVOIX – The Health Department of Northwest Michigan recently received \$5,000 from the Delta Dental Foundation through its Brighter Futures Community Grant Program. The grant will help fund the purchase of infant oral health kits to be distributed regionally to 2,500 mothers. Local health departments serve more than half the infants born in Northern Michigan; through the Women’s, Infants, and Children’s (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program these children will receive infant oral health kits, a dental education, and referral to a dental home by age one.

“This grant gives us an opportunity to promote healthy oral care practices from an early age,” said Linda Yaroch, Health Officer at the Health Department. “Dental health is very important for young children—even those younger than age one. Providing education at an early age can prevent early childhood tooth decay and encourage positive, life-long habits.”

“We are very proud to recognize the work being done by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan by selecting it as one of our grant recipients,” said Teri Battaglieri, director of the Delta Dental Foundation. Grant recipients were selected based on multiple criteria, including the number of at-risk children or adults served by the program, the program’s uniqueness, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results. The Brighter Futures grant program has provided a total of \$250,000 in funding to organizations that serve small communities. For more information, visit www.deltadentalmi.com.

If you are insured through the Healthy Michigan Plan, MICHild, or Healthy Kids, your child’s dental treatment may be fully covered. To obtain care for yourself or your child—or to see if you qualify for one of these plans—call Dental Clinics North at (877) 321-7070. Dental Clinics North, a partnership of local health departments and Michigan Community Dental Clinics, has eight locations in Northern Michigan.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.