

## How Dental OPTIONS benefits dentists...

While the focus of **Dental OPTIONS** is providing dental care to those in need, there are also benefits to dentists participating in **OPTIONS**:

- Dental **OPTIONS** gives you control over the number and type of cases you can accommodate in your practice. You choose the type of patient to treat; e.g., working poor, older adult, medically challenged, etc.
- Your volunteer time is spent solely practicing dentistry, allowing you to give back in the community. Referral Coordinators screen patients for eligibility, provide referrals, and handle the administrative tasks.
- The Referral Coordinators serve as liaisons between your office and patients to ensure follow through with care during treatment.
- A recommended fee schedule is provided giving you the ability to negotiate or adjust fees based on patient need and eligibility for the discounted care component.
- **Dental OPTIONS** dentists can be eligible for up to four CE credits for volunteer service in the licensing biennium period.

## Something to smile about

**Dental OPTIONS** dentists help thousands of Ohioans by providing free or reduced-fee dental services to people of all ages throughout the state.

### Who are **OPTIONS** patients?

**OPTIONS** patients are primarily adults, often considered the “working poor,” and are from your community. An **OPTIONS** patient may be a veteran on a limited pension, a grandmother on Social Security, a middle-aged father of three with a catastrophic illness and no insurance or a teenager in a family with a single parent who makes minimum wage. Many want better opportunities, but an unhealthy smile lessens their confidence. They are..

- Without dental insurance (or the means to afford it) and are not eligible for Medicaid.
- People with limited financial resources.
- Senior citizens and other adults on fixed incomes.
- Often in pain and want to have a healthy mouth.

**OPTIONS** is not an emergency care program. **OPTIONS** also helps improve access to dental care for persons who are medically, mentally or physically challenged.

## Facts & Figures

Created in 1997, the **Dental OPTIONS** program has grown stronger each year. In the first 10 years of **OPTIONS**, more than \$10 million in dental care was donated to Ohioans in need.

Even with that success, there is a need for more dentists to join the **OPTIONS** program and help reduce the waiting list of eligible patients in need of dental care.

More **Dental OPTIONS** general dentists and specialists are needed — especially as participating dentists retire or are approaching retirement!

### Each One...

### ...Treat One

If each dentist in Ohio treats just one eligible patient, more Ohioans can receive needed dental care under **OPTIONS**.

Join the 900-plus Ohio dentists who already participate in **OPTIONS** and provide dental care to those in need...

**And help bring a healthy smile to someone's face!**

## What patients have to say

"I look for reasons to smile now instead of looking down (ashamed)."

"I can't thank you enough for helping ... it has changed my life so much for the better. Besides my appearance, my ability to eat has greatly improved; I had not been able to eat properly for a long time."

### A patient and family story:

A woman called OPTIONS about her uncle, who had been diagnosed with cancer and needed to have some teeth extracted before he could start chemotherapy, but he could not afford the extractions. The doctors had given him a deadline. One day after the deadline we were able to match him to an oral surgeon and the family was able to quickly contact the doctor and get him back on the chemo schedule to save his life. His niece wrote "Thank you very much for your compassion. I don't think I can show you how much this means to me and my family. Uncle R. is a cornerstone to us and we love him dearly. You have helped to keep him with us a bit longer."

To learn more, call Dental OPTIONS  
toll-free at (888) 765-6789  
or the ODA at (800) 282-1526.

Or visit:  
[www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org)  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

## What dentists have to say

"Being an OPTIONS dentist is very rewarding to me. It's not only that I helped restore good oral health to the patient that makes me feel good – it's seeing how a healthy mouth and smile has changed that person's demeanor and brought about a positive sense of self. And that makes me smile also."

**Dr. Mike Wine, Central region**

"To see the smiles on the faces of these patients, especially children who have no control over their circumstances, warms the heart."

**Dr. Michael Halasz, Southern region**

"I like helping patients in the OPTIONS program, and I hope if I am ever in need, someone will be there for me."

**Dr. Nan Tertel, Northwest region**

"As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon for OPTIONS, I get the reward of knowing that not only have I helped restore a patient to good oral health as part of the dental care team, but I have also helped restore self esteem and confidence to this person."

**Dr. E. Karl Schneider, Northeast region**

## Dental OPTIONS...

Reaching out to  
Ohio dentists...  
**reaching out**  
to help those in need.



**Ohio Partnership To Improve Oral health  
through access to Needed Services**

OHIO DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
*Informing - Representing - Serving*



Dental OPTIONS is a private-public partnership  
between the Ohio Dental Association and the  
Ohio Department of Health.