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Bringing dentists to underserved Minnesota communities:
Loan repayment program seeks applicants
Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists Program targets areas of health professional shortages

MINNEAPOLIS – A Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation program to repay up to $200,000 in student loans for dentists who locate in underserved Minnesota communities opened its application period last week in an effort to attract quality dentists to Minnesota’s federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas.

“Too many people across Minnesota are unable to access quality, dependable dental care,” said Joe Lally, Executive Director of Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation. “Our mission is to promote the overall health of all Minnesotans – and oral health is key to that effort. Through this program, we hope to help create long-term solutions that strengthen our communities through oral health.”

In its second year, the Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists Loan Repayment Program works to increase access to quality, dependable dental care for Minnesotans who live in areas where there is a shortage of dental providers. Ideally, the program funds dentists who otherwise would not work in an underserved area.

To qualify for the loan repayment for service program, applicants must commit to practicing a minimum of five years in Minnesota’s federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas, which include:

- Aitkin County
- Faribault County
- Morrison County
- Nobles County
- Norman County
- Pennington County
- Pine County
- Swift County
- Todd County
- Wadena County
- Winona County

Funding and administration of the Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists Program is provided by Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation in collaboration with the Minnesota Dental Foundation for program promotion and candidate selection.

To apply, or to learn more about the program, visit dedicatedmndentists.org.

**Minnesota Dental Foundation:**
The Minnesota Dental Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public foundation whose vision is to eliminate unmet oral health needs in Minnesota by initiating and supporting outreach programs that provide dental services to underserved populations and communities; encouraging and supporting volunteerism within the profession; and promoting careers in dentistry, especially in underserved areas.

**Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation:**
Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation supports Delta Dental of Minnesota’s mission of improving the health of the people in Minnesota through oral health. The Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation supports initiatives that promote access to oral health for the underserved, especially in rural areas and for people living with low incomes across the state. The foundation began in 2009 and was funded by the sale proceeds of a company affiliated with Delta Dental of Minnesota.

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