

## **New York State Grant Designed To Strengthen Oral Health**

The NYS Department of Health is using a Targeted Oral Health Services System (TOHSS) grant funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration to strengthen oral health for pregnant women, infants and children by building community collaborations.

Through the grant, the Department of Health is:

- Providing training and technical assistance to community partners.
- Providing community partners with education and tools for working with pregnant women and the parents of infants and children, to increase dental health literacy and the utilization of dental services, improve treatment adherence and reduce the prevalence of early childhood caries.
- Improving linkages with State Medicaid and Child Health Plus to address billing issues.
- Increasing community capacity by fostering greater participation of local dental providers in Medicaid/Child Health Plus.

To date, the project has reached many organizations and individuals with the message that oral health care is important for pregnant women and young children. Some of the work already completed includes: the development and distribution of oral health materials for audiences with limited literacy, and the presentation of workshops and webinars on oral health for non-dental professionals in programs working with women, infants and young children.

For resources on oral health, limited literacy materials, and finding a dental provider in New York, visit these links:

- NYS Oral Health Guidelines for Pregnant Women and Young Children:  
<http://www.health.state.ny.us/publications/0824.pdf>
- Wallet cards and Mini Posters for community programs working with pregnant women and young children:  
<http://www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/dental/publications.htm>
- [http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental/finding\\_dental\\_provider.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental/finding_dental_provider.htm)