

# ALL ABOUT DHAS

DENTAL HEALTH AIDES (DHA) ARE A COMPONENT OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM (CHAP) THAT INCLUDES FOUR LEVELS OF PROVIDERS THAT PRACTICE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST.

## WHAT IS A DHA?

A DENTAL HEALTH AIDES (DHA) ARE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED TO SERVE ONE OF FOUR POSSIBLE PROVIDER ROLES TO ESTABLISH ORAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

## WHAT DHAS CAN DO FOR THE TRIBAL COMMUNITY

DHA'S PROVIDE INCREASED ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES AT TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS IN ALASKA AND IN AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. DHA'S CAN PROVIDE CULTURALLY AFFIRMING CARE AND IMPROVE ORAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS TO REMOTE AND RURAL TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.

## DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

THERE ARE CURRENTLY FOUR DENTAL THERAPY PROGRAMS IN THE UNITED STATES, ONE IN ALASKA, ONE IN WASHINGTON, AND TWO IN MINNESOTA.

-  ILISAGVIK DENTAL THERAPY PROGRAM IN ALASKA (CODA ACCREDITED)
-  SKAGIT VALLEY DENTAL THERAPY PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON (CODA ACCREDITED)
-  UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY DENTAL THERAPY PROGRAM (CODA ACCREDITED)
-  MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ADVANCED DENTAL THERAPY

## DHA LEVELS

- **PRIMARY DENTAL HEALTH AIDES (PDHAS)** CAN PROVIDE ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY, MAY BE TAUGHT IN HIGH SCHOOL.
- **EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL HEALTH AIDES (EFDHAS)** – ARE DENTAL ASSISTANTS THAT CAN BE EDUCATED TO PLACE FILLINGS OR PROVIDE CLEANINGS.
- **DENTAL HEALTH AIDE HYGIENISTS (DHAHS)** – MUST HOLD A STATE LICENSE AS A REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST. CAN PERFORM EXAMS, CLEANINGS, APPLY LOCAL ANESTHETIC.
- **DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPISTS/PRACTITIONERS (DHAT/DT) (DHATP)** – ARE UNDER THE DHA UMBRELLA. THEY RECEIVE EDUCATION THROUGH COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION (CODA) ACCREDITED PROGRAMS. CAN PROVIDE EXAMS, FILLINGS, AND LIMITED EXTRACTIONS. THEY ARE THE ONLY PROVIDER THAT MUST BE APPROVED BY THE STATE AND ARE AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN ALASKA, ARIZONA, COLORADO, CONNECTICUT, IDAHO, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MAINE, NEW MEXICO, NEVADA, OREGON, VERMONT, WASHINGTON, AND WISCONSIN. OTHER STATES AND TRIBES ARE EXPLORING THE AUTHORIZATION OF DT'S.

