

at-a-glance

2016

Ohio Department of Health

Dental OPTIONS: Ohio Partnership To Improve Oral health through access to Needed Services

Dental OPTIONS is a program that links people in need with dentists who have volunteered to treat approved patients for reduced fees. OPTIONS started in 1997 as a partnership between the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Dental Association (ODA). ODH administers the program by providing funding to a non-profit agency that matches eligible patients with volunteer dentists. ODA promotes OPTIONS to its member dentists. OPTIONS is not an emergency treatment program.

Who is eligible for care through OPTIONS?

People with a low household income, few resources and no dental insurance or Medicaid are eligible. OPTIONS patients are primarily adults; many are the “working poor” or elderly living on a fixed income. Patients with very low incomes and special health care needs may qualify for greater discounts.

What types of dental services are provided?



Each dentist decides what treatment is needed and determines the fee and payment arrangements. Services may include an exam, x-rays, cleaning, fluoride treatment, sealants, fillings, extractions, dentures or partials.



Scan to learn more about the Dental OPTIONS Program.

How does OPTIONS work?

A potential patient can call the toll-free number, 1-888-765-6789, to apply. The completed application and proof of income are reviewed by the referral coordinator who determines final eligibility. Most patients who need dental care are referred to other community resources. A patient who is eligible for OPTIONS is matched to a nearby participating dentist. More than 900 dentists are currently enrolled as OPTIONS providers. The referral coordinator works with patients to ensure follow-through with dental care.

What is the impact of OPTIONS?

Since the program began, more than 84,000 persons have been helped through the OPTIONS program and about \$22 million dollars in care has been provided by participating dentists and dental labs.

"I want to thank Dental OPTIONS and the staff for the lovely denture and partial. I won't be ashamed to smile anymore."

*Mae, northeast Ohio
OPTIONS patient*

"It (Dental OPTIONS) has created a whole different scope of fulfillment for me and my staff."

*Patricia S. Walter, DMD
OPTIONS endodontist
from Cincinnati*

