

Healthy Mouth Movement FAQs



What is the Healthy Mouth Movement?

- The Healthy Mouth Movement (HMM) is Aspen Dental's social impact program that encompasses a variety of initiatives focused on expanding access to quality dental care for veterans and underserved populations.

How long has the Healthy Mouth Movement been around?

- The Healthy Mouth Movement launched in 2014. Aspen Dental has provided much-needed care in the amount of over \$36 million in dental services to over 30,000 people to underserved populations, as well as veterans, in the U.S. and communities overseas.

What programs are part of the Healthy Mouth Movement?

- **Day of Service:** A designated day when Aspen Dental offices nationwide open their doors to provide free dental care to veterans who may not be able to otherwise afford it.
- **Overseas Outreach:** Aspen Dental clinical team members travel abroad to deliver essential dental care and education to adults and children in underserved areas across various countries, from Haiti to Tanzania.
- **Smile for Your Service:** An initiative where offices "adopt" a veteran from the local community and provide them with free, comprehensive dental care.
- **TAG Oral Care Center for Excellence:** A cutting-edge dental clinic and training facility in the West Loop of Chicago, offering free dental services to underserved individuals in surrounding communities. Since it opened in 2022, the OCC has provided \$10 million in free to care to qualifying patients in and around the greater Chicagoland area.
- **The Aspen Dental MouthMobile:** This 42-ft dental office on wheels traveled around the country delivering much needed care and service, in partnership with local Aspen Dental doctors and teams and community-based non-profit organizations. The MouthMobile traveled more than 150,000 miles before making its final stop in 2020.

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How is the Healthy Mouth Movement celebrating its 10th anniversary?

- To mark the 10th anniversary of the Healthy Mouth Movement, as part of our A Decade of Smiles initiative, we're partnering with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to take a new approach to initiatives like Day of Service and Smile for Your Service. This year, we're offering no-cost, comprehensive "start-to-finish" treatment for veterans in select Aspen Dental communities.

I am or know a veteran who could benefit from these programs. How can I access care with Aspen Dental?

- Veterans for the 2024 initiative have already been selected. However, a form will soon be available on the Healthy Mouth Movement page of the Aspen Dental website, allowing you to express interest in future opportunities. If you are not eligible for these opportunities, we will still connect you with a nearby Aspen Dental office to ensure you receive the care you need.

How can I access care through the Healthy Mouth Movement if I am not a veteran?

- Continue to visit the Healthy Mouth Movement page on the Aspen Dental website for updates. A form will soon be available for you to express interest in future opportunities. By completing the form, you'll ensure we can share our finalized plans with you as they develop.

Why is there such a gap in dental care coverage for veterans?

- Millions of Americans struggle to access dental care every year, and military veterans are no exception – in fact, veterans are ineligible for dental benefits through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs unless they're 100% disabled, have a service-related mouth injury, or were a prisoner of war. Programs like the Healthy Mouth Movement help fill this critical gap for veterans.

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Why only veterans? Are there programs/will this program extend to other demos?

- Veterans are a community who are in serious need of dental care, since they do not qualify for dental benefits through the VA unless they are 100% disabled, have a service-related injury to their mouth, or were a prisoner of war. Additionally, many team members across Aspen Dental are themselves veterans, making it an issue that we're incredibly passionate about helping to address.

What's next for the Healthy Mouth Movement?

- As the Healthy Mouth Movement moves into its second decade, we're reimagining our go-forward strategy, in partnership with doctors and teams all across Aspen Dental as well as veterans organizations. While our plans have not yet been finalized, we remain deeply committed to making a difference in the communities we serve, and will share an update as soon as possible.

What treatments does this program cover?

- At Aspen Dental, we believe in comprehensive diagnosis and treatment planning. Our priority is always to take care of the most urgent dental need and get patients out of pain, and all treatment decisions are made by the treating clinician. Services provided through the Healthy Mouth Movement range from hygiene and extractions to dentures and implants.

Is free care available for families of veterans?

- The program remains primarily focused on veterans at this time.