



Senior Dental Program



Agenda:

- Background on STRIDE
- Progress made on the project so far
- Key accomplishments and milestones
- Challenges or obstacles encountered
- Next steps and plans for the remainder of the grant period





- STRIDE Community Health Center (formerly Metro Community Provider Network) is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and has been serving the community since 1989.
- We currently have 13 brick and mortar locations as well as a Mobile Health Clinic. We are adding another location in Arapahoe County in 2026.
- We serve patients in Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Park Counties.
- In 2024, we had over 47,000 active patients and provided over 150,000 visits.
- STRIDE provides the full spectrum of primary care including family practice, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Behavioral Health, Dental and Pharmacy. We also provide Infectious Disease care.
- We serve Medicaid, Medicare, Privately Insured and Uninsured patients through our Sliding Fee Scale.



- There are a total of 150 patients under the Senior Dental Program in the 2024-2025 FY.
- 71 of SDP patients reside in Arapahoe county.
- We provided a total of \$113,882 worth of dental care for the Senior Dental Patients as of 4/30/25.
- We provided a *minimum of 375 visits to seniors under the program in the 2024-2025 FY so far (July 2024 through April 2025).

*Non-billable visits for procedures such as denture adjustments are not included in this count.

Program Metrics

Patient Success Stories



At 77 years old, this Senior Dental Program patient had already faced more than his fair share of challenges. After being diagnosed with prostate cancer, he underwent both surgery and radiation therapy. The toll of treatment, along with the burden of multiple medications, left him with severe dry mouth — a condition that quickly led to root caries, fractured teeth, and significant tooth loss.

Despite these difficulties, he remained hopeful. When he came to us, we started with deep cleanings, restorative care, and extractions to stabilize his condition. But his oral health continued to be impacted by his chronic illness. He returned to us again and again — not just because his dental issues persisted, but because he trusted us to help.

Understanding his medium level of dependency and the systemic challenges he faced, we emphasized preventive care: prescribing fluoride treatments, providing personalized oral hygiene instruction, and walking beside him through every stage of his journey. Thanks to the support of the Senior Dental Program, he continues to receive consistent, compassionate care. Together, we're helping him not just restore his smile, but reclaim a vital part of his well-being and dignity.



At 78 years old, this Senior Dental Program patient came to us with several dental concerns — minor cavities, moderate periodontal disease, and many missing teeth. These issues made it difficult for her to eat comfortably or smile with confidence.

From the beginning, our goal was to restore not just her oral health, but her quality of life. Her treatment plan included fillings, deep cleanings, and the creation of an upper denture and a lower cast metal partial denture. Through the support of the Senior Dental Program, we were able to complete every step of her care.

Despite facing language barriers and transportation challenges, she remained committed to her treatment — and we were equally committed to supporting her through it. Her joy was unmistakable when she could finally eat her favorite foods again, and her smile, once hidden, returned with ease and pride.

It's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do — helping patients restore not just their teeth, but their comfort, confidence, and independence.



One of the ongoing challenges we face is the recruitment and retention of dental hygienists. Like many healthcare providers across the country, we are experiencing a significant shortage of Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs). This shortage impacts our ability to schedule preventive care appointments in a timely manner and places additional strain on our existing team members, who are working diligently to meet patient needs.

The limited availability of qualified hygienists not only affects the day-to-day flow of care but also presents barriers to expanding services, especially for vulnerable populations like our senior patients. These patients often have complex medical and oral health needs that require regular and thorough hygiene visits to maintain stability and prevent further complications.

We continue to explore creative strategies to address this challenge so we can continue providing high-quality, consistent care to the communities we serve.

Challenges – Workforce Shortages



Looking ahead, we remain focused on continued growth in serving the population at the Englewood clinic and are actively planning to expand services in the future. By strategically expanding our reach, we aim to make high-quality dental care more accessible and equitable across the communities we serve.

As we approach 2026, we are excited to begin ramping up services at our new location on East Colfax in Arapahoe County. This site represents a critical opportunity to reach more patients, particularly underserved and vulnerable populations who may have limited access to dental care. We are committed to establishing a strong presence at this new location, ensuring it becomes a trusted source of comprehensive oral health services.



Next Steps –

Continue Serving Patients and Look for Opportunities to Expand



Thank you to Arapahoe County for your continued partnership, support and Aid to Agency dollars that will continue to support STRIDE senior patients in accessing Dental Care!

QUESTIONS?





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