



**CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**

*A Voice for Washington's Children, Youth & Families*

Monday, July 25, 2011  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Creating new ways to improve kids' oral health**

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**Monday, July 25, 2011** — Children's Alliance is proud to announce continued support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a multi-year effort to level the playing field for kids' access to quality, affordable dental care in Washington state.

“We recognize that the most vulnerable children and families suffer the worst oral health. Too many kids go without preventive and routine dental care, leading to disruptive toothaches in school, chronic pain, and emergency room visits,” says Children's Alliance Deputy Director Jon Gould.

In 2010, the Children's Alliance began leading the effort to bring the [dental therapist](#) to Washington state. Dental therapists are successfully being used in Alaska and in more than 50 other countries to take dental care and prevention services to underserved areas.

Through March 2014, the Children's Alliance, with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will continue to work on establishing a dental therapist as part of the solution to extending oral health access to all Washingtonians, especially our most vulnerable children and families.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports similar community efforts in Kansas, Ohio, New Mexico and Vermont. The Children's Alliance will work on the ground to mobilize oral health advocates and leaders across the state, build relationships in underserved communities, and improve education and access to care.

[Learn more](#) about oral health access and the dental therapist model.

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*The Children's Alliance is a statewide public policy advocacy organization that works at the state and federal level to ensure that all children have what they need to thrive. To learn more about the Children's Alliance, go to [www.childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org).*

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families, and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. To learn more about the Kellogg Foundation, go to [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*