Wisconsin Oral Health Program
Fluoride Mouthrinse Program
Boundary Statement

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program funding for fluoride mouthrinse programs in the consolidated contracts is supported by state statute and GPR (general purpose revenue). The funding is targeted to specific local health departments. The funds can only be used to cover the cost of fluoride mouthrinse supplies necessary to provide a weekly mouthrinse program directly in local schools. Fluoride mouthrinse programs are an evidence-based prevention strategy that provide a safe and effective method of reducing dental decay by increasing the availability of topical fluoride exposure through weekly fluoride mouthrinse programs provided to students at school.

A fluoridated mouthrinse is one way to strengthen the outer layer of tooth enamel as the fluoride is not swallowed. The fluoride mouthrinse program is not intended to replace regular dental exams or the daily use of fluoridated toothpaste. Children can safely use mouthrinse and continue to use toothpaste and drink fluoridated water on a daily basis.

Target Population

Children targeted for a school-based fluoride mouthrinse program must be in first grade or above. All children enrolled in a targeted school are eligible for participation in the fluoride mouthrinse program with a signed consent form.

Schools targeted for implementation of a school-based fluoride mouthrinse programs should be located in communities where the fluoride level in the drinking water is below 0.7 mg/L. The schools must be willing to make a long term (multi-year) commitment to program participation.

Programs should follow the guidelines for implementation, training, record keeping, and safety outlined in the School Based Fluoride Mouthrinse Manual: A Guide and Training Manual for Mouthrinse Coordinators, Administrators, Teachers, and Volunteers.

Unacceptable Use of Funds

This funding cannot be used for any other purpose other than the specifically identified program. The funds are not intended to be used for oral health education, well water testing, other types of fluoride, such as fluoride varnish applications or dietary fluoride supplements, and other oral health services.

Data Collection

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program (OHP) Fluoride Mouthrinse Program Annual Report must be completed and submitted to the OHP. The report will document total enrollment per grade, total number of children participating per grade, and names of schools participating.

Relationship to Wisconsin' Roadmap To Improving Oral Health 2013-2018

Strategic Area 1: Infrastructure

Goal 1.2: Expand the role of communities and local health departments in the education, prevention, and treatment of dental disease

Strategic Area 2: Prevention and Health Promotion

Goal 2.3: Increase the use of evidence-based preventive measures, such as oral cancer screenings, sealants, tobacco cessation education, and fluoride

Relationship to Wisconsin State Health Plan: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020

Oral Health Focus Area Profile