

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Diverse Oral Health Coalition of Aurora (DOHCA) seeks to educate parents of young children about the importance of oral health**

AURORA - A diverse group of local businesses, healthcare organizations, and community leaders have formed a new coalition to advocate for the importance of oral health care in Aurora as it is a critical component of overall health.

**The Facts:**

Colorado's nonwhite population is **63% more likely** than its white population to experience tooth decay at a young age<sup>1,2</sup>. Additionally, this population is **60% less likely** to receive essential oral health care<sup>1,2</sup>. This means Aurora, as Colorado's **most diverse city**<sup>3</sup>, faces a unique set of oral health challenges. "Our strength lies in our diversity, and it is imperative to collaborate with current oral health advocates and new partners that represent diverse stakeholders to solve oral health disparities within the Aurora community," said Francoise Mbabazi of Oral Health Colorado (OHCO).

**The Coalition:**

The Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO) initiated the convening of member organizations in response to an initiative by OHCO to address the most significant barriers to oral health care in Aurora. The goal of the DOHCA is to use the community expertise of small businesses, service providers, and nonprofit organizations to find solutions to the most critical issues impacting oral health outcomes in this community.

To accomplish this goal, the coalition plans to promote healthy beverage consumption and reduce sugary beverage intake in the city of Aurora among families with young children (pre-kindergarten). DOHCA member, Tri County Health Department, has supported the work of the coalition both through funding to sustain the Coalition through 2018 and through assistance in the distribution of educational materials about oral health care to parents, encouraging them to commit to serving healthy drinks for a minimum of 30 days. "We see this initiative as an opportunity to work with partners outside the oral health community to extend the reach of the oral health conversation and incorporate unique community perspectives in order to tackle diverse oral health needs in our community," said Alexandra Alonso of CLLARO. A list of the coalition's members is attached.

**Citations:**

1. [Chew on This: 2012 Report on on the Oral Disease Burden in Colorado](#)
2. [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts about Colorado](#)
3. [These Are The 10 Most Diverse Cities In Colorado](#)

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*The Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed since 1964 to realizing a Colorado where Latinos achieve their fullest potential. We do this by providing leadership development programming and trusted data and research on the state of Latinos in Colorado, especially in the areas of health, education, and aging. For more information, please visit [www.cllarocolorado.org](http://www.cllarocolorado.org).*



## **Diverse Oral Health Coalition of Aurora Coalition Members**

Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council  
Aurora Health Access  
Colorado Access  
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation  
Dental Department - Colorado Children's Hospital  
Dental Lifeline  
DentaQuest  
Families Forward  
Fitzsimons Credit Union  
Healthier Colorado  
Integrated Nutrition Education Program  
International & Immigrant Affairs, City of Aurora  
Kids Choice Dental  
Kids In Need of Dentistry  
Metro Denver Dental Society  
Oral Health Colorado  
Save-A-Lot  
Tri-County Health Department  
University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine  
Westwood Unidos

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