

939 Office Park Road #332
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265
PHONE: 515.223.2805 **FAX:** 515.226.3214



October 2021

Contact: Di Findley 515-249-0138

di.findley@iowacaregivers.org

NEWS RELEASE

Mouth Care Matters (MCM) Phase II Continues with Grant from RRF Foundation for Aging For Immediate Release

Iowa CareGivers, (IC) was recently awarded a grant from the RRF Foundation for Aging to continue their previous support of Phase II of Mouth Care Matters (MCM). MCM is an oral health specialty training program for direct care and other health professionals who provide care and support for older Iowans.

The goal of MCM Phase II is to increase access to optimal oral care for older Iowans by 1) integrating the best practice and evidence-based MCM program into community colleges throughout the state as part of their regular course offerings and 2) disseminating an electronic MCM Employer Implementation Toolkit to all health, long-term care, and home and community-based service providers in the state. The comprehensive toolkit includes oral health assessment tools, word finds, jeopardy game, educational articles for reproduction, a one-hour recorded in-service on oral health, mirror clings to remind individuals to brush their teeth and gums, and a list of community colleges offering the MCM training.

Since the program was originally launched by the Lifelong Smiles Coalition in 2014, other partners have included Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, University of Iowa Colleges of Dentistry, and Nursing, Iowa Department of Public Health, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association, and Des Moines Area Community College and Kirkwood Community College.

Naomi Stanhaus, RRF Program Consultant, said, "RRF Foundation for Aging places a high priority on supporting initiatives that focus on long-term systemic change to improve the quality of life for older people, and we believe that MCM has the capacity to accomplish that." RRF Foundation for Aging is one of the first private foundations devoted exclusively to aging and retirement issues. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for older people. For more information <https://www.rrf.org/>

It has a long and impressive history of supporting many worthwhile initiatives and we are very fortunate that RRF Foundation for Aging finds MCM and Iowa CareGivers (IC) worthy of continued support," said Di Findley, Executive Director of IC. Its mission is to enhance care and support of Iowans by providing education, research, recognition, and advocacy for those who provide direct care. Visit [Mouth Care Matters](#)

For more information or call 515-223-2805 or information@iowacaregivers.org

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