State Context for Oral Health
“The teeth are made from stern stuff. They can withstand floods, fires, even centuries in the grave. But the teeth are no match for the slow-motion catastrophe that is a life of poverty.”

- Mary Otto
Context for Our Work: Access & Affordability

- Significant inequities by race, ethnicity, age, income, and geography
- Access is a major issue all over the state
- Among the most restrictive practice acts in the nation
- Focused on workforce policy and financing
Emerging Context: COVID and Beyond

• COVID fast-tracked innovation
• Teledentistry, minimally invasive care
• Staffing shortages persist
Support the spread of school-based oral health models to increase access to care in communities across North Carolina.
Program Goals

- **Improve access** to dental care for school-aged children
- **Improve meaningful care outcomes** for school-aged children
- **Increase number of children served**, particularly those who will not or do not have sources of routine dental care
- **Proliferate programs** that have viable, sustainable business plans
Cohort 1 Schools
Cohort 2 Schools
Cohort 3 Schools
Technical Assistance
Technical Assistance

- Operations
- Financial
- Enabling Services
- Impact

We are here to serve, to help these kids create good oral hygiene habits, and take care of them....I am passionate about the school-based program because we want all kids to have a beautiful smile.

Dr. Francisco Rios
Kinston Community Health Center
Support a network of organizations to identify and achieve system-level changes that will increase access to, and affordability of, care.
PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE
PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, PRACTICE, AND POLICY
Volume 17, Issue 6—November 2020
Oral Health and COVID-19: Increasing the Need for Prevention and Access
Jenelle Y. Forman, DHSc, MSc; Leslie J. Berkebaum, DDS, MPH

Suzanne G. Sheehan

The Pandemic Was Bad for Our Teeth. Will It Change Oral Health Forever?
The New York Times
The New York Times

Tooth Dismay: A NEW LOOK at the DATA on CHILDREN’S ORAL HEALTH in NORTH CAROLINA
NC Child