



Capacity-Building

Strengthening the systems, partnerships, and infrastructure needed for lasting oral health impact.

The ASTDD Foundation invests in capacity-building efforts led by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors to help state and territorial oral health programs grow stronger and more resilient. By supporting long-term systems development, the Foundation advances lasting progress in oral health.

Why This Matters

Strong oral health programs require more than short-term support. They need the infrastructure, partnerships, and organizational strength to respond to change and meet evolving public health needs. This enhanced capacity strengthens their ability to adapt to adapt, grow, and deliver long-term impact.

What We Support

The Foundation supports capacity-building activities that help states and territories enhance and sustain effective oral health programs. These include assessment and planning, public health infrastructure development, partnership building, evaluation, and systems modernization.

The Foundation's focus on capacity building aims to strengthen long-term program capacity rather than address single, short-term challenges. ASTDD provides this support primarily through virtual engagement, written tools and guidance, and consultation with experienced subject-matter

experts, ASTDD consultants, and Foundation leadership, with occasional in-person opportunities tied to national public health meetings.

How This Pillar Advances ASTDD's Mission and Impact

Capacity building advances ASTDD's mission by helping state and territorial oral health programs build the structure and support needed for long-term success. It builds on ASTDD's longstanding commitment to evidence-based practice, strategic planning, infrastructure development, and collaboration.

By investing in long-term capacity, we help state and territorial oral health programs strengthen partnerships, improve planning and evaluation, modernize systems, and build resilience. Over time, greater capacity drives stronger public health systems, broader access to preventive oral health services, and better outcomes for all communities.

How You Can Help

Support for capacity building helps the ASTDD Foundation invest in the core systems and partnerships behind strong oral health programs. Philanthropic funding can help expand support for planning, infrastructure development, evaluation, systems improvement, and partnership-building across states and territories.



Help strengthen the next generation of oral health leaders.

Contact us to learn more

