

Dental clinic aims to treat underserved kids in Dane County

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FITCHBURG, Wis. (WMTV) – A new dental clinic opening this year will focus on providing preventative care for kids and some adults with financial need.



Madison Dental Initiative has announced plans to open up a dental clinic for kids who could not otherwise afford regular dental care. The group opened their first clinic in 2009 with just one dental chair, serving around 50 homeless residents in their first year. Now, they'll expand to focus on the Fitchburg area.

NIH studies show that kids who don't have access to preventative dental care wind up missing three times more school because of pain or emergency visits. Madison Dental Initiative Executive Director Curtis Henderson wants the clinic to provide prompt preventative and emergency care to those who need it most.

"We make an effort to make sure people can get in as quickly as possible, get out of pain and get back to work and back to school."

The clinic is largely being funded by a \$160,000 grant from Delta Dental, with additional contributions from Boys and Girls Club and dental initiative plans. Dentists and hygienists will volunteer hours to work at the two-chair clinic, which is slated to open before Thanksgiving once the group raises an additional \$35,000 to build it.

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