

Main Office
184 U.S. 41 East,
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PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media

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DATE: March 18, 2019

SUBJECT: U.P. Friendly Smile Fund Assists Adults and College Students with No Dental Insurance

NEGAUNEE, MICH., March 15, 2019 – Did you know that approximately 78% of Americans have had at least one cavity by the age of 17? Also, more than one in four (27%) adults in the United States has untreated tooth decay. According to the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly half (about 46%) of all adults in America aged 30 years or older show signs of gum disease, and severe gum disease affects about 9% of adults. If any of these numbers relate to you or someone you love, the Superior Health Foundation (SHF) would like to turn that frown around.

The Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) and My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) has received a grant from the SHF for the Upper Peninsula MCDC Dental Centers in Marquette, Spalding and Engadine. This grant funds a new initiative, the U.P. Friendly Smile Fund, and will cover the cost of an initial exam, X-rays, and dental treatment plan. Any uninsured U.P. adult or college-age student attending an Upper Peninsula college/university during the school year may qualify. Patients only need to verify their U.P. residency (or college student ID), income, and that they do not have dental insurance. “We want this fund to improve access for uninsured adults seeking dental care by reducing or eliminating the \$39 initial fee to establish a dental home for dental care and treatment,” stated Jerry Messana, Health Officer with the MCHD. “The U.P. Friendly Smile Fund will assist **adults with no dental insurance**. The patient will be asked to contribute \$10 towards the cost; however, no patient will be turned away if they are unable to contribute.”

Mr. Messana sees this as an opportunity for many uninsured adults to finally see a dentist and find out their individual dental needs.

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The U.P. Friendly Smile Fund is available now through the end of the 2019, or whenever the funds run out. If you or a loved one needs to see a dentist, ***please call MCDC's toll-free patient registration number at 1-877-313-6232 and mention the U.P. Friendly Smile Fund when you register.*** The three U.P. MCDC locations are:

MCDC-Marquette
989 W. Washington Street, Suite 104
Marquette, MI 49855

MCDC-Spalding
16088 Balsam Lane (PO Box 220)
Spalding, MI 49886

MCDC-Engadine
W14034 Melville Street
Engadine, MI 49827

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