



## **MassHealth Access Program**

**A program of Commonwealth Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School**

### ***What is MASSHEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM***

The MassHealth Access Program (MAP) is a collaboration between the Massachusetts state government and the University of Massachusetts Medical School aimed at improving access to quality health care by low-income people in Massachusetts. The availability of oral health services for MassHealth (the state's Medicaid program) members and the uninsured has been a key cornerstone of MAP since 1998. MAP has funded the start-up and expansion of dental services in community health centers and public schools; financially assisted new dentists who commit to working in community health centers and public agencies; and provided educational services and materials to dental directors, dental practice managers, schools, nurses, and physicians. Oral health disease is more prevalent than asthma and this "crisis" has inspired MAP to persist in devoting resources to improving oral health access.



### ***Dental Student Award Program***

MAP offers a \$40,000 scholarship for the fourth year of dental school to a student who agrees to practice for two years, full time, as a salaried employee in a public health setting in Massachusetts upon graduation. The recipient of the scholarship will practice public health dentistry, providing oral health services with a community focus. To meet the service requirement, MAP will assist the scholarship recipient in locating an employment opportunity in a community health center in Massachusetts. In addition, for those students interested in pursuing a graduate degree in general practice through a General Practice Residency (GPR) Program or Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program in Massachusetts that is affiliated with a community health center or other public entity and which treats MassHealth members and the uninsured, the one year residency program, upon approval of MAP, can fulfill one year of the two year service obligation.

## **How to Apply**

- ✓ You must be a third-year dental student in Massachusetts and in good academic standing.
- ✓ You must document your interest in dental public health.
- ✓ You must be a United States citizen or hold a permanent resident card.
- ✓ You are preferably a Massachusetts resident.
- ✓ You must obtain an application through your dental school. Your dental school contact can be found at <http://www.umassmed.edu/ocp/index.aspx>
- ✓ Scholarships are granted based on application reviews and applicant interviews with dental school administrators and MAP staff.



## **Testimonials from MAP participants:**

*"I'm writing to tell you again how happy I am with my MAP placement at Cambridge Health Alliance. I am surrounded with supportive and like-minded health care providers and staff who enthusiastically deliver care for a much needed population. I am very happy that there is such a drive for improvement and quality of care. I have grown so much as a dentist while working here. I enjoy my time here every day and feel very lucky to have this as my first professional experience after dental school."*

*— Sam A. Merabi, DMD*

*"The MAP program has afforded me the opportunity to improve my dental knowledge, skills and confidence in a short period of time. It has made the transition from academics to practice much easier than anticipated. However, the most rewarding aspect is being able to help a population of patients so often unable to receive dental care."*

*— Jen Fallon, DMD (pictured above)*