

A Network Approach to Improve Oral Health



OPEN, an initiative of CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, is a nationwide network of individuals and entities who are taking on America's oral health challenges so that everyone has a chance to thrive.

OPEN members use their unique experiences, knowledge, and skills to lead network activities, creating collective energy that is driving large-scale change. Members connect in-person and virtually throughout the year to share resources, learn from one another, and align on policy priorities.

Over the past two decades, our network has grown out of a nationwide conversation among policymakers, providers, public health activists, and grassroots organizers who understand that today's system of health care does not work for everyone. They recognize that we must work together to improve oral health and overall health.

To achieve system change, OPEN takes a network-building approach and engages stakeholders across the national, state, and community levels to develop strategies for collective impact.



Being part of OPEN opens up connections to people who have become wonderful resources and who have provided me with valuable information on best practices, literature, surveys and more. Other states have reached solutions to struggles or have answers to questions that my state is dealing with too — as long as we are connected, we can help each other out. We are not alone.”

OPEN's 5 Principles to Improve Oral Health

▶ Advocate

We advocate to advance oral health policies.

▶ Listen & Learn

We listen and learn from each other.

▶ Bring People Together

We bring together community members, advocates, and leaders.

▶ Share

We share best practices, resources, and lessons.

▶ Look to Data

We take a data-informed approach in all that we do.

