

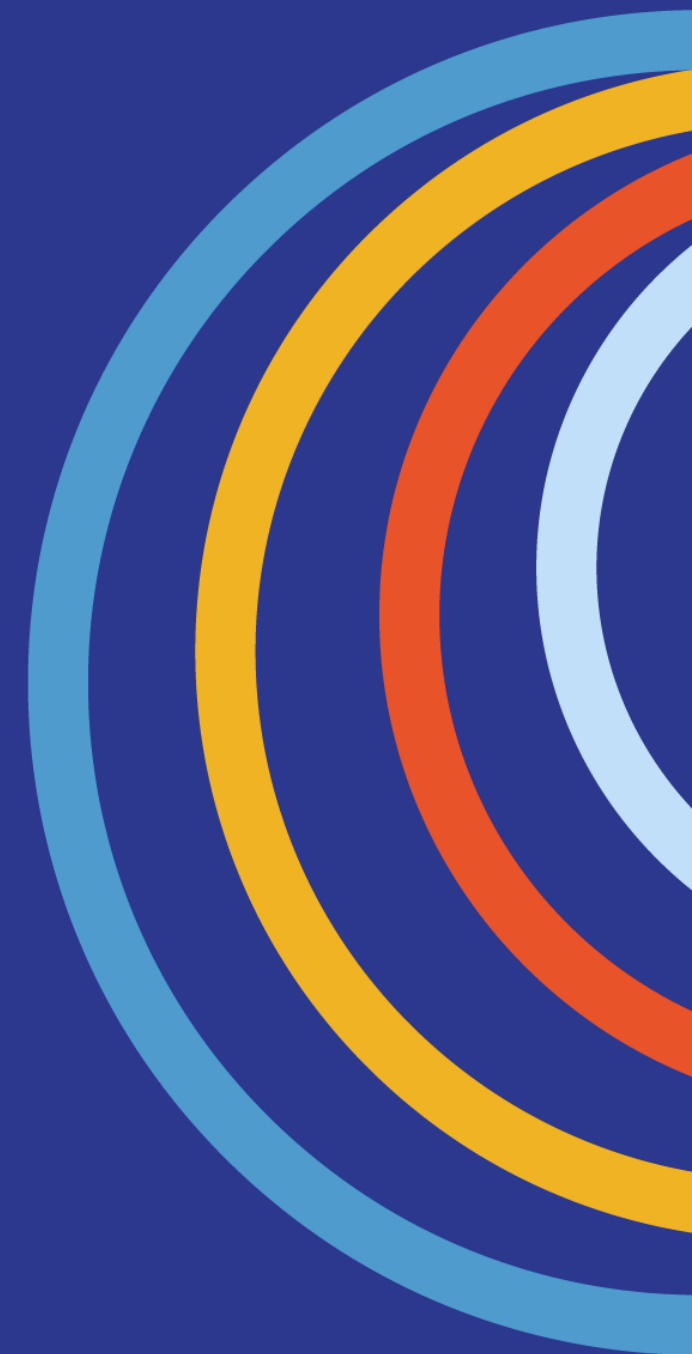


OPEN House

Hill Day:

What we accomplished and how to keep momentum going.

June 25, 2026



Meeting the Moment

Today calls for:

- Celebrating Wins
- Perseverance
- Continued Collective Action



OPEN Introductions

Welcome!

Chatbox Check In:

- Name, Organization, State
- What do you want to accomplish in the second half of 2026?
 - *In your work, your communities, or through OPEN*



Housekeeping

- Today's meeting is being recorded
- All lines muted upon entry
- Share questions & comments in the chat box
- If comfortable, please add your pronouns to your Zoom name
- Recording & slides provided post-event
- Disagreements are normal. Respect is required.

AGENDA

Purpose: to engage members in OPEN learning and action, build connections across the network, and shape OPEN's direction through ongoing feedback.

1

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Review meeting agenda and objectives.

2

OPEN Hill Day 2026 Debrief

Participant reflections, wins, ideas to keep momentum going.

3

State & Grassroots Committee Spotlight

Framed messaging strategies to advance Hill Day policy asks.

4

Q&A and OPEN Reflections

Ask questions, share feedback, and help shape the network.

5

Capacity Building Opportunities

FrameWorks Messaging TA Opportunity & OPEN Annual Meeting Announcement.

Today, We Will:

- Review initial Hill Day outcomes.
- Determine priority steps for continued traction.
- Walk through examples of framed messages to support continuous advocacy.
- Connect with fellow members about how to keep momentum going in their communities.



Hill Day Debrief

OPEN Hill Day: June 3-4 in Washington, DC

Mariah Oakley

Preliminary Outcomes from Hill Day*

National Reach

120 participants
38 states & territories
138 Congressional visits
26% of Congress reached

Strong Engagement

98% rated experience good/excellent
93% reported feeling prepared and confident

Concrete Follow-Up & Action

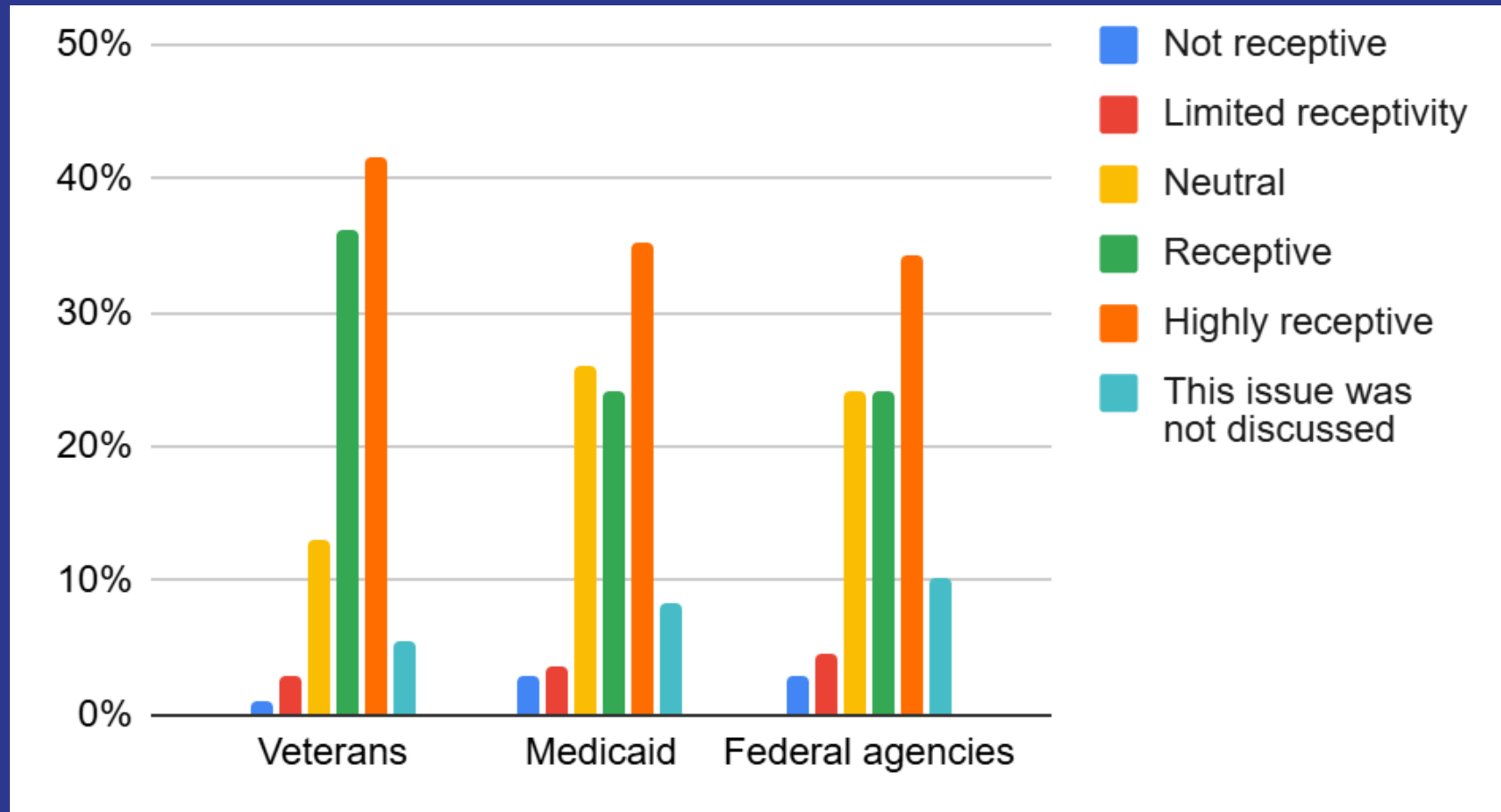
Nearly 65% of meetings included follow-up requests
26 offices engaged on future legislative action
12 offices open to championing or co-sponsoring
13 offices ready for a site visits

Veterans' Oral Health

Oral Health in Medicaid

Oral Health Infrastructure

Congressional Receptivity to OPEN Policy Asks



Oral Health Advocate of the Year: Congresswoman Julie Brownley



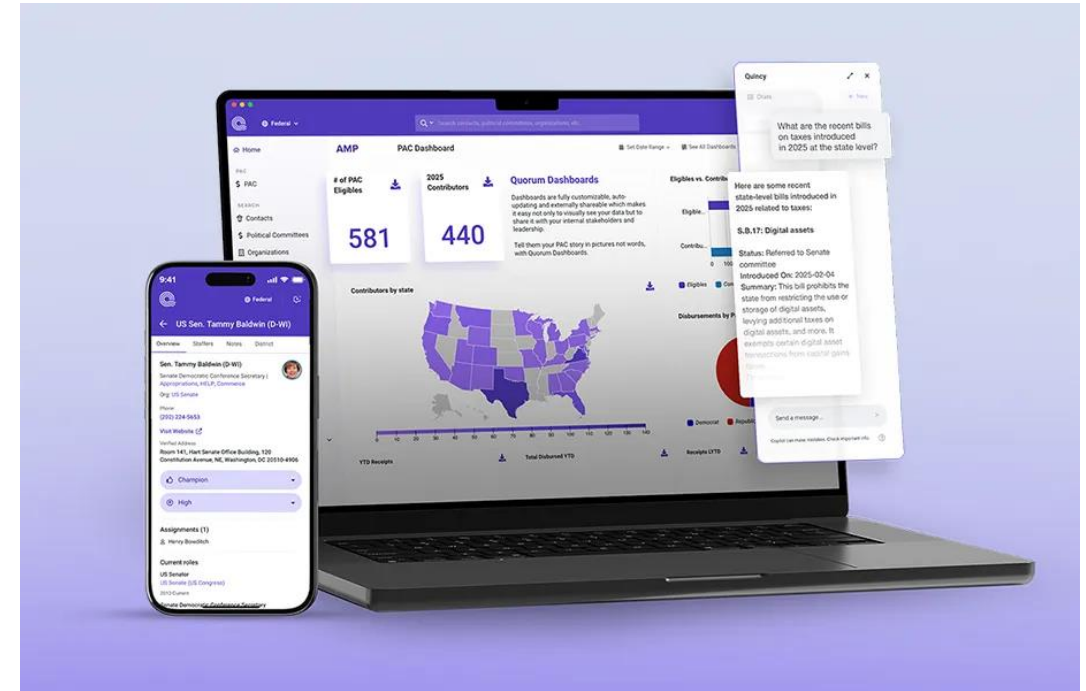
Hill Day: Turning Momentum into Impact – Next 90 Days

- Equip members for follow-up (or initial outreach)
Templates + tailored outreach
- Advance legislative engagement
10 priority offices; expert support
- Activate district-level engagement
Site visits in priority states
- Establish ongoing advocacy cadence
Quarterly engagement across OPEN



Tools for Continuous Advocacy

- **Happening now:**
 - Advocacy and State & Grassroots committees working with OPEN on resources to advance legislative engagement and support site visits
- **Coming Soon:**
 - An evergreen policy action center just for OPEN members to support continuous advocacy



State Data Tools: Quality Improvement

What is one type of data, feature, or format you hope to have available to better support advocacy conversations?

State of Oral Health: Pennsylvania



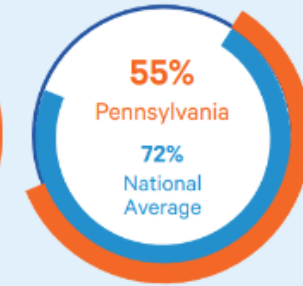
Adults with Unmet Dental Needs¹



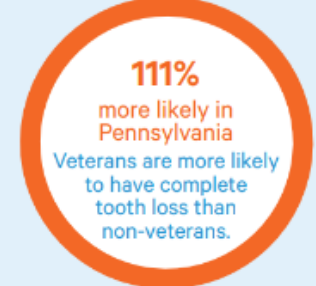
Adults Without Dental Insurance¹



Population with Fluoridated Water¹



Veterans with Complete Tooth Loss²



US Could Save Billions by Addressing Oral Health

One quarter of adults in the US — 69 million people — do not have dental insurance.³ For many adults with low income, adults with disabilities,⁴ and veterans,⁵ dental care is too expensive and out of reach. The inability to receive dental care is a threat to overall health and to our economy.

It's time to put our money where our mouth is.

- ▶ **\$45 billion** could be saved in productivity time lost due to untreated dental disease.⁶
- ▶ **\$4 billion** could be saved on nearly 2 million emergency department visits for dental conditions that would be more effectively and less expensively treated at a dental office.⁷
- ▶ **\$42 billion** could be saved simply by treating gum disease in patients with diabetes and heart disease.⁸
- ▶ **\$10 billion** more would be spent on treating tooth decay over 5 years if fluoride is removed from the US water supply.⁹

OPEN Spotlight:

State & Grassroots Committee

Shavonne Healy

OPEN 2026 Hill Day Participant,
D.C. Grassroots Representative

State & Grassroots Committee Overview

Equipping OPEN members to engage state and local partners with shared tools, framing, and real-world examples.



Resources

Audience-tailored messages, action guides, and mapping templates



OPEN Learning Pathways

Virtual learning (OPEN Communities and OPEN Houses) and Annual Meeting capacity-building sessions

Three Reflections from OPEN Hill Day

VA - Senators Tim Kaine & Mark Warner



Lauren Eggleton, Dr. Snetha Patel, Beatris Amberman, me, Victor Mckenzie

DC - Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton



Raya Kenney, Legislative Assistant

Three Reflections from OPEN Hill Day

- 1 **Policy Moves at the Speed of Relationships:** relationships must constantly be rebuilt
- 2 **We Cannot Improve Access to Care While Overlooking the Preventive Workforce:** Dental hygiene workforce remains underutilized
- 3 **Your Story Matters More Than You Think:** stories are what move people to action

The *Story* of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America

STREETSENSE MEDIA
Real Stories | Real People | Real Change

News

By Bryan Doyle


May 31, 2017

Culture, Classism and Cash Shape America's Oral Health



Ben Burgess / K Street Photography

The Scope of Tooth Loss in America

 Globally, nearly **7% of adults have lost all of their natural teeth**, and **by age 60**, nearly **1 in 4 people** are living with **complete tooth loss**.

40M

Americans Affected

Forty million Americans have lost all of their natural teeth, living daily with the functional and health impacts of complete tooth loss.

14%

Adults 65+ Edentulous

Nearly 1 in 7 older Americans has lost all teeth. Risk increases substantially with age, making seniors a critical population for targeted intervention.

2x


Racial Disparity

Black older adults are more than twice as likely as White older adults to be edentulous – a stark indicator of persistent oral health inequities.

31%

vs. 9.5% by Education

Adults without a high school diploma experience tooth loss at 31.9%, compared to just 9.5% among college graduates – underscoring the role of social determinants of health.

 Millions live with **preventable consequences** of tooth loss that can affect nutrition, contribute to chronic disease, and compromise overall health and quality of life. Addressing these disparities requires policy action, equitable access to care, and sustained public health investment.

Your *Story* Matters More Than You Think:

Data

*Research has linked tooth loss **and oral microbiome changes** to poorer nutrition, chronic disease, increased mortality risk, and a higher risk of pancreatic cancer.*

Personal Story

My mother lost her teeth years before her pancreatic cancer diagnosis.

Policy Solution

*Protect access to preventive oral healthcare:
Support the **Promoting Dental Health Act** (S.4008) – can prevent tooth loss before it occurs.*



“It's Not Just Reimbursement; It's a Cultural Thing”

– Sen. Tim Kaine(D-VA)

Problem

Adults on Medicaid struggle to find providers.

Data

Only 27% of VA dentists accept Medicaid.

Human Story

“People driving across state lines, sleeping in their cars, and lining up in a dusty parking lot in Wise County, VA, only to have their teeth end up in a bucket”

Policy Solution

Invest in prevention, education, value-based care, and access to the full oral health workforce.



2024 Senate Hearing on America's Dental Crisis

What Happens When We Change the Narrative?

Traditional Message

Dental hygienists want to be paid directly.

This is a *workforce* issue.

Hygienists want expanded autonomy.

This benefits the profession.

Strategic Message

Patients need more access points to preventive oral health care.

This is an *access-to-care* issue.

Communities need the *right provider*, in the right place, at the right time.

This *benefits patients*, Medicaid programs, and public health.

Oral Health is Multifaceted

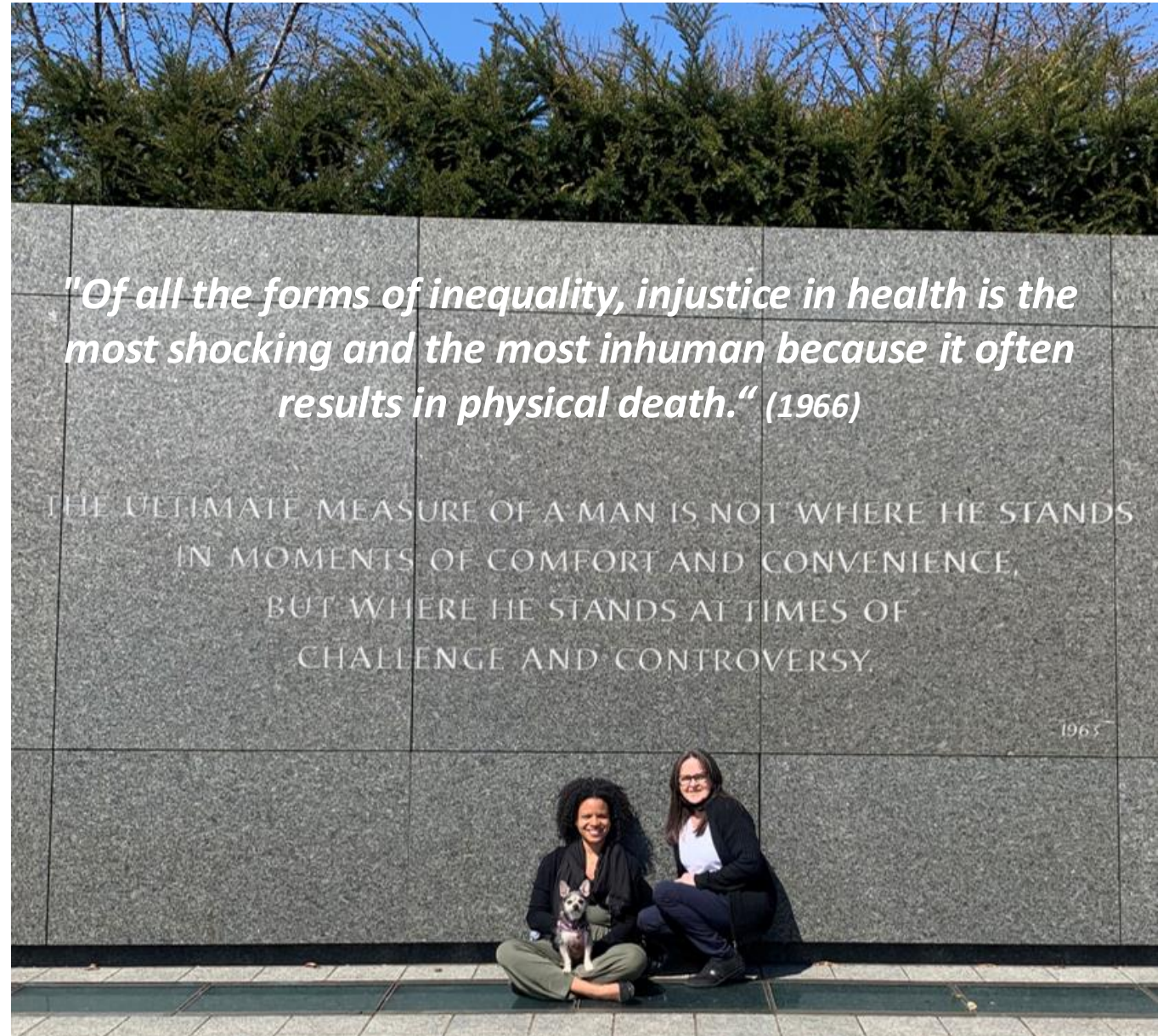
includes the ability to:

- speak
- smile
- smell
- taste
- touch
- chew
- swallow
- convey a range of emotions through facial expressions *without* pain, discomfort and disease.





In Loving Memory
of
My Mother
1960-2023



Priority Advocacy Tools Identified

Audience	Tool Description
Grassroots Leader / Community-Based Organization	Community Story Circle / Listening Session Guide
State Advocate / Agency Partner	Framed Legislative Testimony Builder
Provider / Clinician	Plain-Language Outreach Script for Medicaid Engagement

Q&A

OPEN Reflections

All Presenters

OPEN Mingle

What would help
you to keep
advocacy
momentum going
post-Hill Day?

Building on Momentum

OPEN Capacity Building Opportunities

Frances Walsh

Framed Messaging Support



Framing for Oral Health Equity Toolkit

Grab and go phrases, legislative testimony templates, reframe guides, and more



Technical Assistance from FrameWorks

Sign up for a 30-minute TA session to workshop materials, test ideas, and receive real-time feedback grounded in proven, research-driven techniques.

OPEN Annual Meeting | Virtual | October 21–22



Collective learning and relationship-building



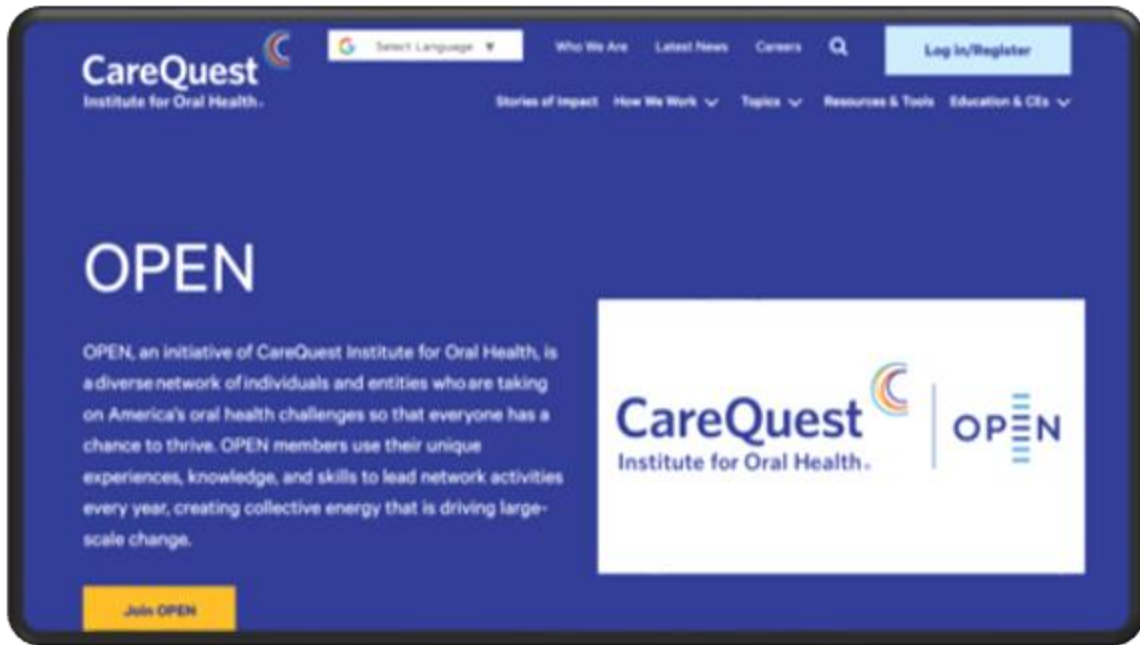
Skill-building and shared learning



Cross-state connection and strategy



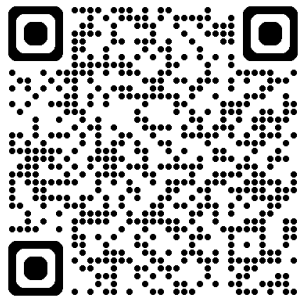
Strengthening capacity for sustained oral health progress



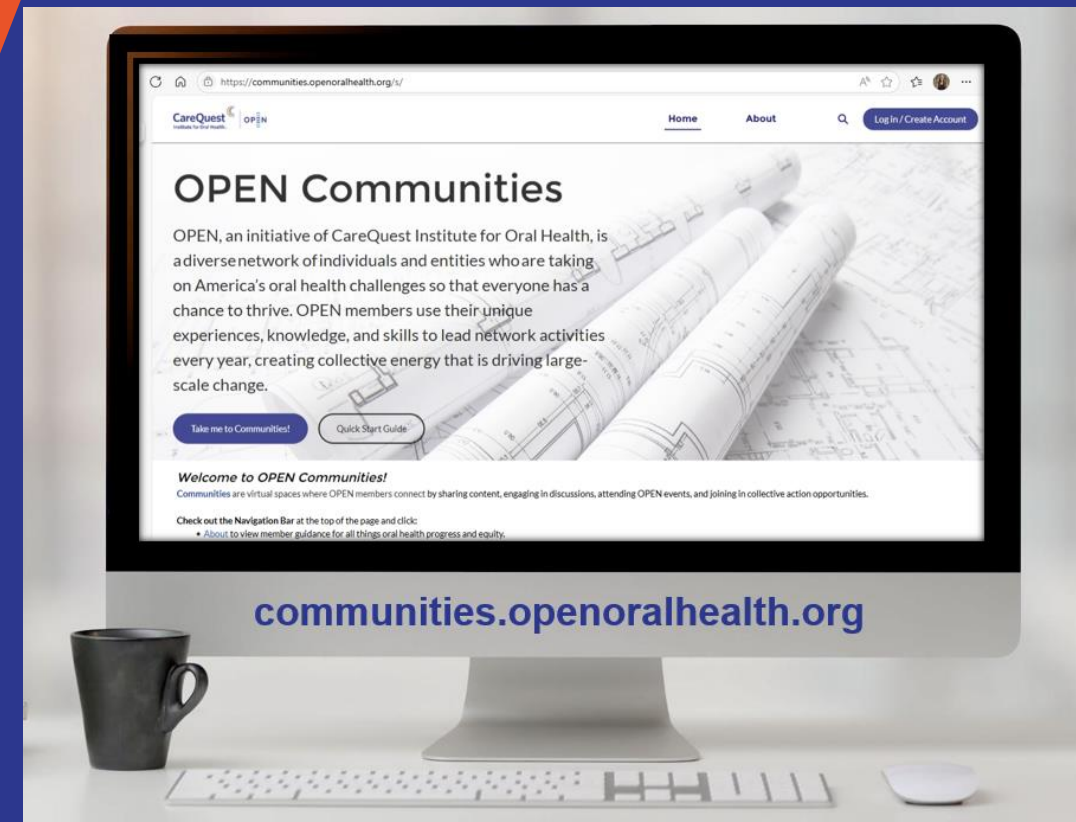
Stay connected!

Find webinars, articles, news from fellow members, and more.

Website: carequest.org/open



Scan here to visit!



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