



Give Veterans A Smile

Dental Association Planning Guide

Honoring Our Veterans | Providing Dental Care



Be part of the **GVAS** movement!

Give Veterans A Smile

Dental Association Planning Guide



Table of Contents



- GVAS Overview** 3
 - Background Information 3
 - Purpose of the Guide 3
 - GVAS Event Types 3
- GVAS National Resources** 4
 - Sign Up to Participate 4
 - Private Dental Practice 4
 - National Organizations 4
 - Dental Society 4
 - Dental School 4
 - Community Health Center 4
 - Dental Service Organization 4
- Additional Resources** 5
 - Dental Laboratory Affiliations 5
 - Common Veteran Organizations in Most States 5
 - National Organizations with a Focus on Veterans’ Oral Health .. 5
- Promote GVAS in Your State** 6
 - GVAS Online Toolkit 6
 - Dental Association Administrative Tasks 6
 - State Dental Association Best Practices 6
 - Advocacy 6
- Conclusion** 7



Give Veterans A Smile Overview

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Background Information

Launched nationally by the American Dental Association Foundation (ADA Foundation) in 2024, Give Veterans A Smile® (GVAS), was created to help call national attention to the unmet oral health needs of Veterans by:

- ★ Encouraging dentists to provide pro bono oral health care services to underserved Veterans during the month of November via a one or multi-day screening process which would include examination, radiographs, prophylaxis, and development of a treatment plan, plus addressing any emergent care; assist them in finding a dental home or refer them to a dental facility (dental practice, residency, school, FQHC) or an organization that can assist in providing a dental home, and
- ★ Collecting data and sharing the value of charitable oral health care provided nationally in order to help guide advocacy efforts aimed at increasing funding and access to care for underserved Veterans.

The ADA Foundation provides tools and resources for local GVAS program volunteers so they can focus on what they do best: providing much-needed oral health care to veterans in underserved communities.

We invite your dental association to join us in this national GVAS effort, and help inspire your members to Be Part of the Movement!

Purpose of the Guide

This document provides useful information and resources to assist state and local dental associations on how they may participate or encourage participation throughout their state in the ADA Foundation Give Veterans A Smile program.



GVAS Event Types

Education Only	Screening	Preventive/Restorative
The Education Only event includes oral health education, with NO other oral health services provided during the event. Education Only events generally take place in a community setting with the use of posters, props, oral health supplies, and handouts. Education events should include referral resources for those veterans in need of oral health care services.	The Screening event delivers oral health education and visual oral screening. A visual oral screening can include a soft tissue exam, hard tissue visual exam, denture evaluation, and an oral cancer screening. This type of event is generally held in a clinical setting but can also be conducted in a community setting. The event may be held in a dental or medical practice, dental school, community center, shelter, museum, or mobile van setting. Screening events should include referral resources for those veterans in need of oral health care services.	The Preventive/Restorative event delivers oral health education, screening exam, radiographs, prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, fillings, extractions, root canals, impressions, etc. This type of event takes place in a clinical setting, such as a dental office, dental school, or clinic.

GVAS National Resources

Sign Up to Participate in GVAS

The ADA Foundation invites all dentists to provide charitable oral health care services to underserved veterans beginning in the month of November when Veterans Day is celebrated. Participation may be a one or multi-day screening process which would include examination, radiographs, prophylaxis, and development of a treatment plan, plus addressing any emergent care. We encourage providers to become the dental home for the veteran, and if that is not possible, assist them in finding a dental home.

When signing up, dentists may choose to volunteer:

1. Private dental practice (independently, on your own)
2. Through an existing national organization providing oral health services to veterans
3. Dental society program
4. Dental school program
5. Community Health Center
6. Dental Service Organization

1. Private Dental Practice (independently)

If you choose to volunteer independently, participation may be a one or multi-day screening process which would include examination, radiographs, prophylaxis, and development of a treatment plan, plus addressing any emergent care. Consider becoming the dental home for the veteran, and if that is not possible, assist them in finding a dental home or refer them to a dental facility (dental practice, residency, school, Federally Qualified Health Center) or an organization that can assist in providing a dental home.

2. Through an existing national organization

If you choose to volunteer through an existing national organization providing oral health services to veterans, in most cases, the organization will match you with a qualified veteran.

To sign up through an existing national organization, please visit the sites below and follow the instructions to volunteer:

- ★ Dental Lifeline Network, www.dentallifeline.org
- ★ Everyone for Veterans, www.everyoneforveterans.org
- ★ Veterans Smile Day, www.veteransmileday.org

3. Dental society program

To find out if your dental society/association has a GVAS program or is aware of program near your, click on the link below to find contact information for your state or local society.

www.ada.org/about/ada-by-state

4. Dental school program

If you are interested in volunteering at a dental school GVAS program, click on the link below to see a listing of all dental schools. Consider reaching out to the dental school nearest you for volunteer opportunities.

www.asdanet.org/index/get-into-dental-school/pretental-resources/u-s-dental-schools

5. Community Health Center

If you are interested in volunteering at a GVAS program through a community health center, click on the link below to find a community health center near you that may be participating:

www.nachc.org/community-health-centers/what-is-a-health-center

6. Dental Service Organizations

If you are interested in volunteering for a GVAS program through a dental service organization, click on the link below to find an organization near you that may be participating:

www.theadso.org/membership-old/current-members

ALL dentists should click on the link the below to let us know how you will participate in Give Veterans A Smile. When signing up, you will be asked to choose the method for which you would like to participate.

SIGN UP

For questions email our ADA Foundation GVAS team at GVAS@ada.org.

Additional Resources



Dental Laboratory Affiliations

Many veterans may need dentures, partials, crowns or bridges, which require fabrication by dental laboratories. Below is a laboratory affiliations list (some may donate services):

- ★ Glidewell Dental
glidewelldental.com
- ★ National Dentex Corporation
nationaldentex.com
- ★ Dental Services Group
www.cresseyco.com/partnerships/dental-services-group
- ★ MicroDental Laboratories
www.microdental.com/labs
- ★ Dental Crafters
www.dentalcrafters.net
- ★ Keating Dental Arts
keatingdentallab.com
- ★ New Horizons Dental Laboratory
www.newhorizonsdentallab.com
- ★ CreuDent Prosthetics
creodental.com

Common Veteran organizations in most states:

- ★ The American Legion
www.legion.org
- ★ AMVETS
www.amvets.org
- ★ Disabled American Veterans
www.dav.org
- ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars
www.vfw.org
- ★ Military Officers Association of America
www.moaa.org
- ★ Marine Corps League
www.mcleaguelibrary.org

National Organizations with a Focus on Veterans Oral Health:

- ★ VA Dentistry
Improving Veterans' Oral Health
www.va.gov/dental
- ★ AIDPH
Veteran Oral Health
aidph.org/veterans
- ★ CareQuest
Veteran Oral Health
www.carequest.org/veteran-oral-health

Be Part of the Movement



Promote GVAS in Your State



GVAS Online Toolkit

The ADA GVAS online toolkit provides comprehensive information on how to plan and promote a GVAS event, risk management guidance, education and promotion resources.

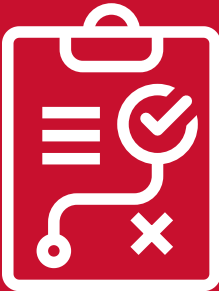
GVAS Toolkit

Dental Association Administrative Tasks

- ★ Promote GVAS to your local dentists via meetings, your dental association website, email blasts to your members, your e-newsletter, etc. to expand coverage in your state.
- ★ Contact Veterans groups in your area with event information.
- ★ Provide a toolkit resource on your website for program coordinators/ volunteers to easily access state specific forms, including regulatory guidelines.
- ★ Help connect dental students, dental team members, and other community workers with program coordinators to volunteer at GVAS events.
- ★ Help connect the public with providers and/or events in your area.
- ★ Create marketing materials (i.e., county maps, state event calendars, state-specific posters, letters to state legislators, etc.).
- ★ Provide your contact information for questions.
- ★ Help the ADA Foundation collect the names of dentists in your state who participate in GVAS, so that we may recognize them for their efforts.
- ★ Connect your members to the national website at ADAFoundation.org/GVAS or by email at GVAS@ada.org for comprehensive GVAS information/assistance.

Advocacy

- ★ Share your state GVAS data with your oral health coalition at their meetings.
- ★ Invite local, state, federal officials to your events.
- ★ Ask the ADA DC and State Affairs staff for assistance.



State Dental Association Best Practices

- ★ GVAS local website page
- ★ GVAS email blasts & social media posts
- ★ GVAS county map
- ★ GVAS calendar of events
- ★ GVAS event location list
- ★ GVAS municipality letter

For examples of best practices contact GVAS@ada.org

Conclusion



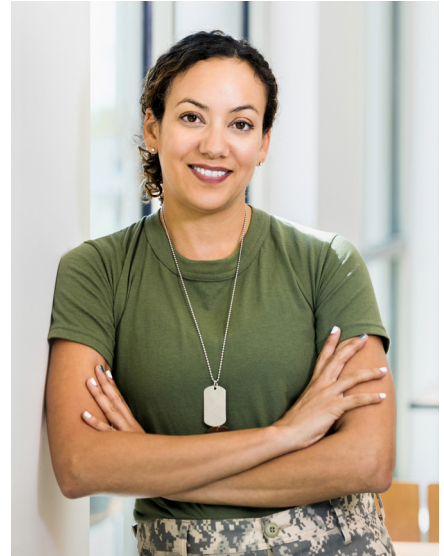
Give Veterans A Smile is an opportunity to raise awareness about the unmet oral health needs of veterans and to take action by connecting veterans with dentists.

We are very proud of what the Give Kids A Smile program has done to improve the health of millions of children over the years, through thousands of volunteers and sponsors, and trust that the same measures can be taken to improve the health of millions of veterans. Few things in life are as rewarding as helping to restore someone's smile. The reward is made even greater when we catch a glimpse of the radiant smile of that veteran.

That is the essence of the ADA Foundation's Give Veterans A Smile program — helping to ensure that every veteran has a healthy smile.

And now as we launch this new exciting program, we hope that you will join us and Be Part of the Movement!

Questions? Contact the national ADA GVAS team at GVAS@ada.org.



Today, the power of our community — defined by caring, kindness, and a willingness to go the extra mile — is on full display as we gather to broaden our positive impact, work together on solutions and elevate our talents to improve the health and well-being of our nation's veterans.



Cesar R. Sabates, D.D.S.
American Dental Association, past president