

Dental Health

Many women leaving prison struggle with dental issues, and one goal may be to repair their teeth. If that is the case for you, I encourage you to investigate the following programs:

Discounted Dental Care

Dental care can be costly, especially without insurance. If you happen to live in Dallas, Houston or San Antonio, you can inquire at the dental school nearest you for discounted care. Dental students provide care for patients at a discount (since they aren't yet licensed practitioners), while the care is closely monitored by a licensed professional. Below are the links for the dental schools in Texas:

[Texas A&M University College of Dentistry](#), Dallas, TX

[University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry](#), Houston, TX

[University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Dentistry](#), San Antonio, TX

Medicaid

In some states, Medicaid does provide discounted dental care. This availability varies from state to state. Texas does NOT provide dental care through Medicaid. If you live in a different state, go to this link to determine what may be available to you through Medicaid:

<https://www.growingfamilybenefits.com/medicaid-cover-dental-work/>

Cosmetic Dentistry Grants

For dental implants, crowns, dentures and other cosmetic related needs:

Before reading more about this program, it appears to be primarily available in NY, CA and NJ, but they do have a participating dentist in the Dallas area. If any of those places apply to you, keep reading.

A Cosmetic Dentistry Grant (CDG) is just that: a grant (not to be repaid) for dental needs, specifically cosmetic needs. This grant is only applicable after other dental needs have been taken care of (such as fillings or cleanings). Applying is free. Go to this website for additional information: <https://www.cosmeticdentistrygrants.org/CosmeticDentistryGrants/program.jsp>

From what I could determine, a person generally receives a partial grant. BE AWARE THAT YOU WILL LIKELY NOT BE RECEIVING A FULL GRANT, SO ONLY PROCEED IF YOU CAN REPAY THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. (Discuss repayment with your dentist). Here are the steps needed (according to the website):

1. An applicant submits a request for funding at the website.
2. The applicant's information is confirmed by the staff.
3. A dentist near the applicant agrees to provide a [free assessment and consultation](#), then contacts the applicant to arrange an appointment. NOTE: though the assessment and consultation are free, any x-rays will have to be paid by the applicant, so ask ahead about those costs.
4. The dentist determines eligibility. If the applicant does not qualify, the dentist will make necessary recommendations.
5. If/when eligible, the dentist will provide the applicant with a cosmetic or implant treatment plan.

SUMMARY: This program seems to be helpful under limited conditions: the person lives in the designated areas, the person can pay for x-rays and other dental needs prior to the implant or denture plan.

Repairing Dental Injuries as a result of Domestic Violence

The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry has a unique program for people who received dental injuries as a result of domestic violence. For more details, and to fill out an application, go to: <https://aacd.com/applyforgbas>

In order to apply for the Give Back a Smile program, a person must meet the following criteria:

1. The injury must have taken place at least one year ago.
2. The person must be out of the abusive relationship (including not living with the person) for at least one year.
3. The dental care is intended to repair dental injuries, not repair dental problems related to poor hygiene.
4. The person must pay \$20 for the application fee or serve 10 hours of community service to cover the fee.

I'm still learning about additional services and will update this site as I learn more.