



Association of Dental Support Organizations Continues Advocacy on Workforce Shortages, Core Industry Challenges

Organization has forged partnerships and programs aimed at workforce development and other issues

Washington, D.C. (July 10, 2023) – [The Association of Dental Support Organizations \(ADSO\)](#) today announced progress on a number of initiatives it has undertaken as it seeks to address ongoing workforce challenges currently facing the dental industry. In conjunction with its [legislative efforts](#), the ADSO has been working closely with members and industry partners to help build a stronger pipeline for talent and development at all levels of the dental field.

“Solving current workforce issues by working closely with our partners and promoting new models and pathways for the dental industry is essential to the ADSO’s mission and strategic plan. It will also ensure greater growth and strength within the oral health care industry,” said Andrew Smith, the ADSO’s Executive Director.

“In our latest round of advocacy efforts, we are successfully strengthening employment pipelines for dentists and hygienists while promoting the efficacy and benefits of the DSO model across the country.”

The ADSO has focused on removing barriers to entry for the dental profession, increasing funding for educational programs, and elevating the dental hygiene and dental assisting professions. Efforts to this effect include:

- **Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Collaboration:** The ADSO is working with DANB and participating in listening sessions and work groups to develop a comprehensive picture of state-by-state education requirements and the scope of practice for dental assistants. Using this information, ADSO representatives will then be part of a workgroup that develops model legislation and regulations to bring uniformity to education and scope, to advance legislation to improve consistency in states across the country.
- **American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) Collaboration:** The ADSO is working with the ADHA to elevate the profession to facilitate greater access to care. Efforts include removing barriers to entry, increasing funding for hygiene training, and enhancing hygienists’ freedom to operate at the highest level of their license.
- **American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Partnership:** Through this collaboration the ADSO aims to highlight DSOs as a career choice for new dentists, introducing the DSO model to students, explaining the different types of DSOs and helping students better understand the benefits DSOs can provide dentists upon graduation. The ADSO is coupling this partnership with presentations to students in dental schools across the country.
- **DSO Pilot Program:** The ADSO is piloting a program that exposes dental students to DSOs through clinical rotations at DSO practices where students can hone their clinical skills in a real-

life practice environment. The pilot will launch this fall, and the ADSO plans to expand the engagement following completion and analysis of the pilot.

About the ADSO

The Association of Dental Support Organizations (ADSO) is a non-profit trade association whose members support more than 11,000 dentists. ADSO supports its members through research, education and advocacy; enabling them to foster innovation, collaboration and a vibrant market where DSO-supported dentists can provide quality oral health care. Visit www.theadso.org to learn more, and follow the ADSO on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.

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