Imagine this!

- By the year 2010,
  - Families/children who participate in this program \{BEST\}, when they register for kindergarten at the Springfield Public School’s Parent Information Center, will produce an oral health record, which profiles annual dental health screenings and fluoride varnish applications \{comprehensive dental exams\} that began at the age of 2.
  - Students will enter kindergarten with sound bodies and healthy mouths and their family and the community will be ready to provide them with continuing oral health care as part of routine health care.
Our Assumptions & Success Factors

- **Bridging Social Ties and Creating Support Networks**
  - Use existing ties between and among EEC organizations to reach parents and families and channel resources. By design, we aim to set up a model where several EEC organizations share strategy, activities, and pool resources.

- **Health Advocacy and Policy Change**
  - Beyond the pilot phase there will be the need for state budget and legislative action to secure MassHealth benefits and to create more flexible coverage options and procedure codes to sustain local projects.

- **Capacity Building and Leadership Development**
  - Open Wide Train the Trainers Program will develop the capacity of individuals and organizations to deliver their own oral health education program.

- **In-reach Health Promotion**
  - Provide services onsite to a defined population and connect them to a continuum of oral health care and other needed health resources.
  - Connect dental treatment (clinics and private providers) to EEC organizations and provide oral health education and treatment for the whole preschool population, on site in preschool settings to enrolled children and their siblings.
Complex Problems Need a Comprehensive Response

Administrative Partners for a Healthier Community
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health
Public Schools
Higher Education
Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine
Tufts School of Dental Medicine Community Dental Programs
Springfield College School of Social Work
Springfield Technical Community College
Private Sector
Commonwealth Mobile Oral Health Services
Private Dentists
Public Health Providers
Western Massachusetts Hospital
Springfield Department of Health and Human Services
Holyoke Community Health Center
Caring Health Health Center
Early Childhood Education Centers

Taking Action
Children are Receiving Services

Best Case Scenario: In FY 2010, BEST is able to sustain services to over 5,000 children currently enrolled at BEST preschool sites and fully transition these programs to be self sustaining.

Additionally, BEST will replicate its model and will increase access to dental care for 12,545 students enrolled in public school preschool – 5th grade.

Worst Case: Over 3,500 children in the BEST preschool program remain at significant risk of oral disease and will not gain access to preventive and comprehensive dental care.
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