

## Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program

The Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program is a **12 month** program that trains students to work as Registered Dental Assistants in Washington State, with an option to work toward their Certified Dental Assistant credential. It is equivalent to a Dental Assisting program at a community or technical college. The program:

- Is a registered apprenticeship program through the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
- Is governed by an Apprenticeship Committee of 50% employer and 50% DA representatives
- Is administered through the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers
- Trains students in the specific skills required to work as Registered Dental Assistants, as outlined in RCW Chapter 18.260 and WAC 246-817
- Curriculum follows the Commission on Dental Assisting (CODA) educational standards

### EMPLOYER EXPECTATIONS

1. Register as an approved training agent
2. Provide a DA coach for each apprentice *\*not intended to shadow*
3. Allow apprentices and coaches adequate time to meet and practice skills on the job

### APPRENTICE EXPECTATIONS

1. Complete **2000 hours of on-the-job training** (*paid*) with the support and guidance of an experienced one-on-one DA coach
2. Complete **420 hours of supplemental coursework** (*unpaid*), including:
  - a. Online course *Technical Skills for Dental Assistants* (estimated 10 hrs/week)
3. Attend 7 in-person lab days (56 hours total) with an expert instructor to practice and demonstrate mastery of hands-on technical skills.
4. Log and report on-the-job hours and skill practices as required

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Aubre Lawless**

Workforce Training Manager

360-786-9722 x222 | [alawless@wacmhc.org](mailto:alawless@wacmhc.org)

**Katherine Lechner**

Workforce Development Manager

360-786-9722 x239 | [klechner@wacmhc.org](mailto:klechner@wacmhc.org)

This document was supported by Grant 90FX0037 from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.