

SEAPORT SMILES

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR
PCHC BELFAST DENTAL CENTER



The Need

Described by community stakeholders as a leading concern for the community, access to oral healthcare in Waldo County is extremely limited. The median household income in Waldo County is nearly 13% lower than the state average (\$42,221), in a state where median income lags the national average significantly. Affordable dental options are limited to non-existent in the mid-coast area. Without access, oral diseases progress rapidly, becoming emergent and impacting other healthcare conditions.

Our Solution

PCHC is building an 8-chair dental clinic, conveniently located on the second floor of Seaport Community Health Center's new integrated primary care clinic at 21 Schoodic Drive in Belfast.

This new resource – the **PCHC Belfast Dental Center** – is projected to provide critical care through more than 7,200 patient encounters annually, regardless of ability to pay. The clinic will reduce costly reliance on hospital emergency departments to treat dental pain, focus on prevention, and assist private practices in meeting the need in the area.

Impact Snapshot

<1%

Local private practices accept MaineCare and are open to new patients

41%

Insured children had zero preventative dental claims in 2019

37%

Children had zero dental claims in 2019

Our Goal

\$1,000,000

“The addition of dental services to Waldo County is a win for the community and the healthcare system. Increasing jobs, supporting economic development, efficiently leveraging taxpayer dollars flowing to federally qualified health centers and reducing the cost of care in Maine.”

Lori Dwyer, Esq.
PCHC President & CEO

Table 2. Dental care access indicators in the Mid-Coast Region¹

Access indicator	Knox	Lincoln	Waldo	Sagadahoc	Public Health District	State average
Rate (n population : 1 dentist)	1729	7747	5751	2055	4321	2700
% <21 covered by dental insurance	55.3%	57.2%	54.7%	49.5%	54%	55.7%
% of children in 2020 enrolled in MaineCare (ages 0-19)	45.6%	46.6%	50.3%	35.3%	44%	43.8%
% of insured children with at least one dental claim in 2019	64.8%	61.1%	61.5%	65.4%	63%	66.5%
% of insured <21 with at least 1 preventive dental visit in 2019	60.6%	57.2%	57.5%	61.9%	59%	62.6%
2016-2018 dental emergency department rates for children per 10,000 population	24.1	29.6	23.3	10.3	22	17.9
2016-2018 dental emergency department rates for adults per 10,000 population	184.8	202.8	195.6	121.8	176	136.6

Mid-Coast Oral Health Profile

https://www.maineconh.org/assets/docs/MidCoast-Oral-Health-Profile_Jan-2022.pdf

Timeline

Phase

Economic Impact

**Fall 2025 /
Spring 2026**

Phase 1 renovations to the second floor of Seaport Community Health Center

Construction of the dental clinic is expected to add 15 skilled labor industry jobs.

Early 2026

Grand Opening, bringing basic and restorative care, acute care, and walk-in care to the region.

PCHC's new dental clinic is projected to support 13-15 permanent jobs.

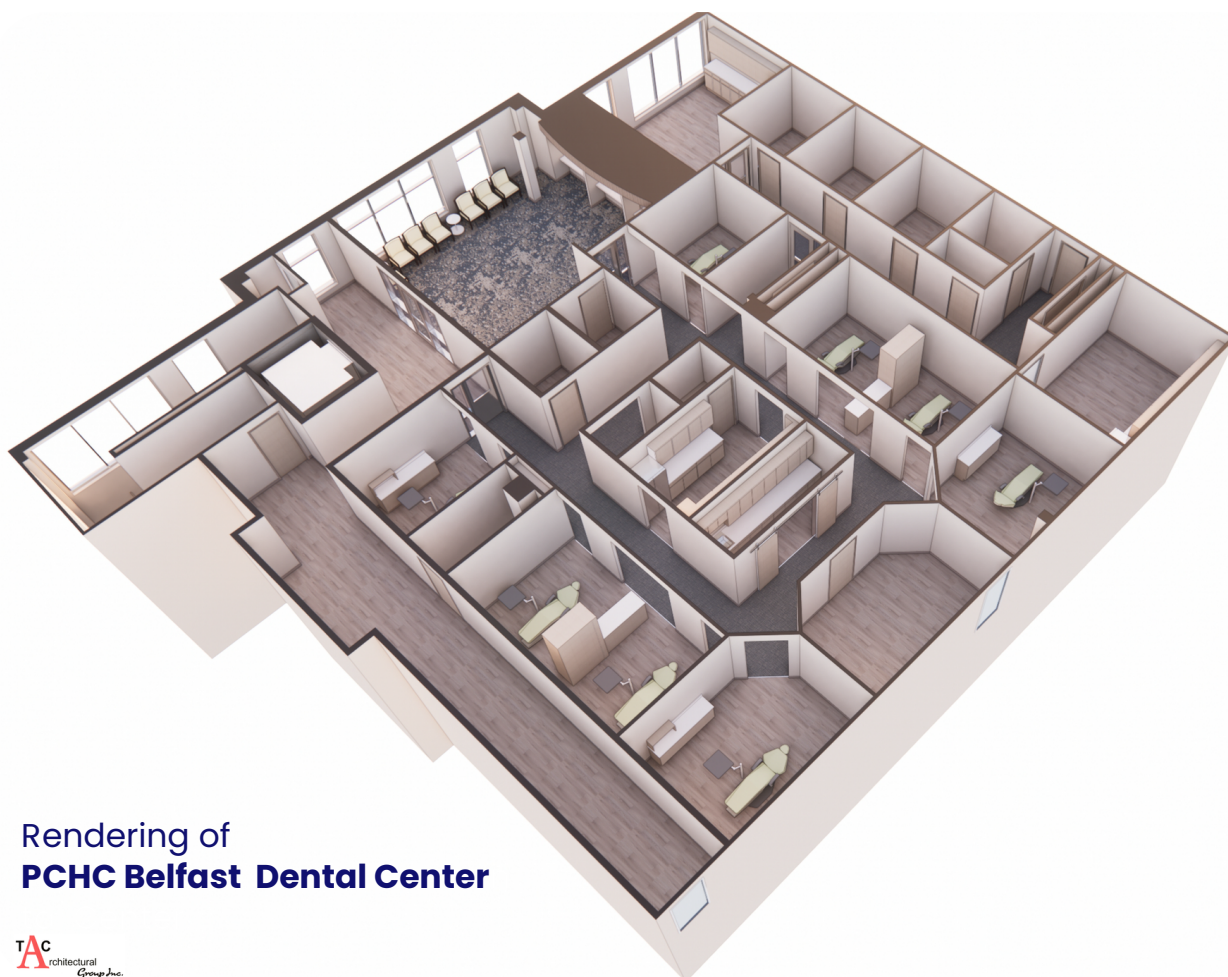


Your support makes a difference.

PCHC would like to thank the following partners who contributed letters of support for this project:

Seaport Smiles Campaign Committee
City of Belfast Waldo County Commissioners
MaineHealth
Waldo Community Action Program
Belfast Chamber of Commerce

**Thank you
to our friends
and donors.**



Rendering of
PCHC Belfast Dental Center



Penobscot Community
Health Care



 <https://pchc.com/seaport-smiles/>

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