

# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
10 a.m. EST October 21, 2010

The Jessamine County Health Department (JCHD) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$10,000 Targeted Oral Health Surveillance Systems (TOHSS) grant from the Department for Public Health (DPH) to promote oral health care for underinsured and uninsured adults in Jessamine County.

“At this point, JCHD is the only health department in the state that is using TOHSS funds for programming to target oral health care for adults,” according to JCHD Health Educator Shana Peterson.

“Other Kentucky counties requested and received funding to target youth oral health care. Jessamine County already has several oral health care programs in place for children, so we were able to request funding in order to create an Oral Health Coalition that will focus on another group that is often in need of assistance with emergency oral health care: adults,” Peterson said.

The newly-formed Jessamine County Oral Health Coalition’s mission is “to improve the oral health of adults in Jessamine County.” The coalition’s specific objectives are:

- Seek out and apply for other funding sources to assist with payment of treatment services ó specifically for underinsured.
- Promote volunteerism among local dental professionals to assist Refugee Ministries Dental Clinic in securing sufficient providers for the eligible uninsured patients to receive dental treatment.
- Market appropriate and available treatment resources to both the uninsured and underinsured adults in need of treatment.
- Develop and market a referral system to individuals in need of comprehensive oral and medical care.

“The coalition funding will be used to develop programs and materials that will, in the long run, help improve the oral health for those adult residents who need it,” according to Peterson. “We need to develop ways to get information about oral health care resources to those who need it,” she said.

For more information, call the Jessamine County Health Department at 859.885.4149 or visit [www.myjchd.org](http://www.myjchd.org).