



# Illinois & The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$7,389,570**

Number of Institutions Funded: **8 (American Dental Association Foundation; ADA Science and Research Institute; JLDrummond Consulting; Tempus Health, Inc.; Northwestern University; University of Chicago; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)**

Number of Grants Awarded: **30**

Number of Congressional Districts with NIDCR Grants: **4**

## Improving Illinois Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- The prevalence of root caries (decay on the root survey of the teeth) in older adults is reported to be as high as 90 percent, and as the population ages, there will likely be a substantial increase in the need for root caries treatment. The American Dental Association Foundation was awarded a grant to develop new approaches and materials that are not only expected to outperform the current treatments but will also address challenges elderly populations with generally deteriorated health face.
- Researchers at Northwestern University are conducting research into the structure and chemistry of tooth enamel, the white layer that covers the crown of a tooth. The study will aid in the understanding of dental decay formation and progression, find strategies to harden enamel, and provide information that can be used to develop early tooth decay detection.
- The mouth is home to a diverse group of bacteria and viruses. Evidence shows a role for Herpesviruses in various oral inflammatory diseases, including pulpitis and periodontitis. Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago are investigating how Herpesviruses persist and alter the immune response in the mouth. The results from this study will be utilized to develop therapeutic targets for treatment of oral inflammatory diseases.

