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Region clarifies eligibility for free dental screening program

By **Graeme Frisque**
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Halton Region has clarified eligibility for dental-assistance after an announcement last week left out some important details.

Halton currently runs a series of initiatives aimed at helping those who may otherwise have a difficult time financially and are in need of a dental check-up.

The latest initiative, which will run until June 2017 and is aimed at babies and toddlers, is part of a larger ongoing oral health program that already includes free screenings for some in need.

In addition to the free screenings, the program also includes resources and training about the importance of early dental care and regular check-ups for infants and toddlers.

The Region clarified eligibility for all oral health initiatives in an email:

The region offers free dental screenings to Halton residents who meet the financial hardship and dental need criteria for program eligibility for the following groups:

- Children and youth age 17 and under
- Recipients of Ontario Works
- Adults aged 65 and over

Adults aged 64 and under who have a physical/mobility disability and need assistance with performing activities of daily living such as getting dressed, bathing or grooming.

Free dental screenings for residents who

meet eligibility criteria are available by appointment through its clinics in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills multiple times throughout the month.

As for the baby and toddler program, there will be a number of clinics available in all Halton municipalities beginning March 29 in Acton.

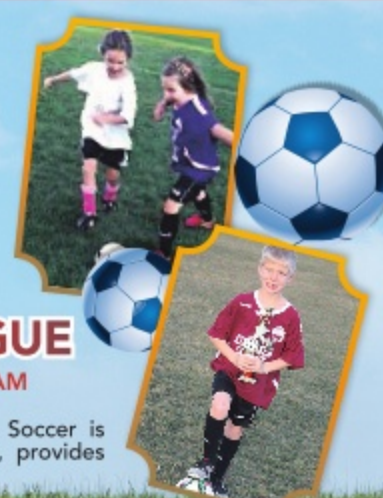
The region is offering free dental screenings events for children (0-3) who attend Neighbourhood Groups in Halton Region. These screening events are located in each of Halton's four municipalities: Oakville, Burlington, Halton Hills and Milton., wrote the Region in an email to The IFP.

Families who may need financial assistance to see a dental provider will be provided information about the Healthy Smiles Ontario program so that they can start to take their child for regular visits to a dental provider at an early age, added regional reps.

If the pilot project is successful, the region says it will consider adding it permanently to Halton's existing oral health programming.

Eligible residents can book and appointment by calling 3-1-1 or (905) 825-6000. Spaces are limited, so those wishing to take advantage of the free screenings must call to book an appointment ahead of time.

Visit halton.ca/living_in_halton/public_health/health_clinics/oral_health_clinics for more information.



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