



**CALIFORNIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION AWARDS**  
**COMMUNITY GRANT TO OAKLAND DENTIST**  
*Recipient to bring dental care to underserved communities*

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**Sacramento, CA** — The California Dental Association Foundation has announced Luis Rivera, DDS, as the 10th recipient of its innovative and charitable Dental Student Loan Repayment Grant Program. Rivera, who graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry in 2009, will receive a maximum of \$105,000 to help offset significant student loan debt in exchange for a three-year commitment to work in an underserved community.

New dentists graduate from dental school with an average debt of \$250,000, and the burden of that debt limits their ability to choose a career in community health care. To date, tens of thousands of individuals have received care as a result of the Student Loan Repayment Grant, totaling more than \$13.5 million in treatment and services.

“We are very proud of this program because it helps dedicated health care professionals achieve their career goals and allows them to provide proper care to underserved populations,” said Lindsey Robinson, DDS, chair of the California Dental Association Foundation. “I know that Dr. Rivera will serve as a vital asset to the community where he practices.”

Rivera grew up as an only child in a single-parent immigrant household. Although he was born in the United States, he was raised in Mexico prior to entering elementary school, beginning his education in Reseda, Calif., with English as a second language. To help support his family, Rivera worked throughout his high school education and while earning his undergraduate and doctorate degrees.

Rivera is currently fulfilling his three-year commitment at La Clinica de la Raza—Transit Village in Oakland.

“My long-term goal is to become an integral part of La Clinica de la Raza or an organization with similar goals for the community it serves, and this grant has helped me move toward that goal,” Rivera said. “My background affords me great insight into delivering culturally sensitive and appropriate health care, yielding great comfort to my patients.”

**About the California Dental Association Foundation**

*The CDA Foundation was formed as the philanthropic affiliate of the California Dental*

*(more)*



*Association in 2001 with the mission to improve the oral health of Californians by supporting the dental health profession and its efforts to increase access to care for the state's most vulnerable people. The CDA Foundation works with experts in the dental profession, private business, academic institutions and government to produce programs that increase access to care; promote prevention, education and intervention; advance health policy research; and build a sustainable oral health workforce. [www.cdafoundation.org](http://www.cdafoundation.org).*