

Workgroup Objectives and Timeline

- Assemble a workgroup of approximately 20 members to discuss a strategic look at the future of the dental profession and opportunities for CDA to shape a set of actions that will reduce the challenges to and create positive opportunities for the profession.
- Incorporate the objectives of the dental insurance workgroup.
- At the outset, the workgroup will brainstorm and prioritize issue areas to explore, how to organize the workgroup into breakout areas and ways to engage the broader voice of members in the process, (e.g., regional or topical town halls, updates on progress, etc.).
- Engage a wide array of resources (both subject matter specialists and background materials) to inform the understanding of challenges and potential opportunities.
- Provide progress updates to the various boards, councils and committees, local societies, house of delegates and general membership.
- Estimated timeline:
 - Workgroup appointments finalized in late January or early February 2026.
 - Workgroup meets and engages broader voice of members through 2026.
 - Progress report on key areas of focus and workgroup activity at the 2026 house of delegates.
 - More detailed exploration and development of a final report and action recommendations by end of 2027.

Participation Objectives

- Approximately 20 members, with representation from the board, board of component representatives, house of delegates, student delegation and various practice types. Inclusion of early career dentists (under 10 years in practice). This core group will do the majority of the work and deliver a report and action recommendations. Smaller breakout groups will address specific issues while the larger group will consolidate recommended actions and solutions.
- Participation will also include broad-based information gathering and engagement opportunities for CDA members. Ideas include listening sessions, town halls, focus groups and member surveys that could occur in conjunction with events such as leadership conferences, regional meetings, CDA Presents, Now+Next events, the student delegation and house of delegates.

Workgroup Outcomes

- Identify ways to “prepare the organization to meet the needs of a future state of the profession that is likely to be organized, financed and delivering care differently than today”.
- Deepen member awareness that CDA is looking out for their needs now and in the future.
- Provide members opportunities to participate in the process (membership engagement opportunity).
- Develop progress report(s) and a final report that includes a strategic roadmap or phased strategies for a future of dentistry that is sustainable, vibrant and meets the needs of dentists and their patients/the public and how the CDA enterprise can help shape and best support that future state.