

# DO THE MATH

**DENTAL THERAPISTS: GOOD FOR NEW MEXICO'S HEALTH.  
GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY.**



## Dental therapists benefit the local economy.

In 2011, 19 dental therapists in Alaska created 76 full time jobs.<sup>i</sup>



Those same therapists generated \$9 million worth of economic activity. Most of this money was spent in rural communities.



Dental therapists earn good, livable-wage salaries in their communities, starting at \$60,000 a year.



**Creating jobs & positive economic impact** in our local communities.

## Dental therapists benefit their employers.

Dental therapists are cost effective - for every dollar they generate in revenue it costs less than 30 cents to employ them.<sup>ii</sup>



In Minnesota, employing dental therapists for \$45 an hour compared to dentists at \$75 an hour lets practices expand services despite low Medicaid reimbursement rates.<sup>iii</sup>



Dental therapists enable their employers to serve more Medicaid & uninsured patients: the cost savings from employing a dental therapist can offset low reimbursement rates and sliding scale fee models.



**Helping dental practices grow** by helping them serve more underserved patients and generate more revenue.

i. Scott, Mary Kate. "Strategic Assessment and 5 year Business Plan for The DHAT Educational Program." Scott & Company, Inc. February 15, 2012.

ii. Kim, Frances M. "Economic Viability of Dental Therapists." Community Catalyst. May 2013.

iii. Wovcha, Sarah. Presentation: "Dental Therapy in Minnesota: A Study of Quality and Efficiency Outcomes." Dental Access Project Convening: Albuquerque, NM. November 2014.