

## Facilitative Leadership to Strengthen Community Voices for Oral Health

To strengthen local voices to improve oral health, Oral Health Colorado (OHC) is partnering with the Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC) to hold Facilitative Leadership for Social Change (FLSC) workshops to build leadership and advocacy capacity in rural Colorado. OHC has selected IISC as its partner as they bring 20 years of experience in collaborative leadership and organizational development in service of those striving for justice and sustainability. The work of IISC is rooted in a commitment to equity and inclusion, and a belief in networks as important units of change. Their work shows the power of bringing together key stakeholders to create a shared vision and strategies for concerted action to achieve that vision.

FLSC is grounded in the belief that today's leaders must inspire and create conditions that enable others to be their best in the pursuit of shared goals. FLSC develops practical collaborative skills and tools for tapping the creativity, experience, and commitment of advocates and provides participants with a forum in which to explore their challenges and aspirations as leaders. Each workshop will provide powerful leadership practices that, when fully embraced, create the opportunity to take participants from vision to action in ways they had not previously contemplated. IISC's workshops focus on real-life problems and applications. More than 50% of class time is devoted to practice, with each participant receiving individual coaching/feedback from the workshop leaders and participants. A safe and supportive environment is built without ignoring the "tough" feedback/questions essential to fostering learning. More information about IISC and FSCL can be found at [interactioninstitute.org](http://interactioninstitute.org).

Thanks to the Colorado Health Foundation and Delta Dental of Colorado, you have the opportunity to bring FSLC directly to your community, at no charge, during the spring of 2016. Based on participant interest, five communities will be selected for this unique training opportunity. Up to 15 advocates will be identified within each selected community to receive the 2-day training and these new relationships will be nurtured by OHC with technical assistance that will continue beyond the workshops. After the conclusion of the training, OHC will convene the workshop participants to collaboratively identify community issues impacting oral health and develop plans for addressing the issues in 2017. We anticipate having mini grants to help support these efforts.

Your commitment:

- Complete any required assignments before, during and after the training sessions.
- Full participation in the 2-day training session in your community that will be set once the communities have been selected. The tentative dates are all in June- 3/4, 6/7, 8/9, 17/18, 20/21, or 21/22.
- Participate in the development of a community action plan to improve oral health.
- Commit to taking action in 2017 to implement the community action plan.

If you are interested in participating in this unique opportunity, please complete the Application and submit by March 1, 2016. Please share this opportunity with other local advocates to help ensure that your community is selected to participate.

What you learn from FLSC not only will help improve oral health in your community, but will strengthen your personal skill set and nurture relationships that will be valuable in strengthening your community as a whole.

We hope you will join us!