What is a Dental Pilot Project?
Dental Pilot Projects are an Oregon state initiative to encourage the development of innovative practices in oral health care delivery systems with a focus on providing care to underserved populations.

The Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist Pilot Project is demonstrating how this primary oral health care provider can increase access and quality of care to Oregon’s AI/AN population.

What is a DHAT?
Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) are primary oral health care providers that are recruited from their communities and after completing an intensive education program, go back to their communities to provide routine preventive and restorative oral health care. Alaska Natives introduced this provider over 10 years ago, and since have increased access and improved oral health care in their tribal communities.

Where are Oregon DHATs practicing?
The pilot project, sponsored by the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board has three current sites: The Coquille Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and Native American Rehabilitation Association. All three sites have students in training, and there are two DHATs currently in practice (see right).

Participating Tribes and Tribal Organizations:

For more information contact:
Pam Johnson, Northwest Portland Area’s Native Dental Therapy Initiative: pjohnson@npaihb.org, 206-755-4309, www.npaihb.org/ndti