

Montana Dental Association Statement before the Legislative Finance Committee - October 4, 2017

On behalf of the 685 members of the Montana Dental Association, we strongly urge the Legislative Finance Committee to oppose reductions to the Medicaid budget, particularly cuts to essential dental services and the reduction of Medicaid provider fees. These proposed reductions will have **devastating impacts on the oral health of children, the aged, blind, and disabled.**

Gov. Bullock's budget director has recommended **cutting \$20.5 million from the Medicaid dental program, which includes 18% of the total proposed general fund cut to the Health Services Division.**

- **\$17.8 million** from adult dental services covered by Medicaid, including dentures and other dental care for aged, blind, disabled, pregnant and other low-income adults. Unlike other proposed Medicaid cuts, specific procedures were selected to be eliminated.
- **\$2.5 million** for medically - necessary orthodontia services for Medicaid children;
- **\$60,000** to fund the Donated Dental Services partnership contract with DPHHS.

Here's the impact:

More dental infections: Elimination of these essential dental services can result in increased and more severe dental infections; loss of teeth; increased chronic and severe dental pain and more ER visits.

Increased risk of other diseases: Adults with chronic oral infections are at risk for diabetes, heart and lung disease, stroke, and poor birth outcomes. Without dentures, elderly and disabled patients in nursing facilities will have difficulty eating and maintaining good nutrition, resulting in a worsening of their already medically compromised health.

Barriers to employment: Painful infections, missing teeth and poor oral health make it difficult for older kids and adults on Medicaid to find and keep jobs. This plan cuts needed dental services that save teeth. It's a step backwards in helping Montanans become employed, self-sufficient and contributors to Montana's economy.

Elimination of the state's most successful private - public charitable dental care partnership: Since the Legislature's funding approval in 1997, dentists volunteers have given \$4.4 million in charitable dental care for 1,300 elderly and disabled patients through the Donated Dental Services program. DDS returns more than \$10 in volunteer dental care for every \$1 provided by the state to offset the cost of a part-time dentist - patient coordinator. Cutting Medicaid funding for dentures and other essential services makes preserving this program even more critical to the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Decreased dental care access: The provider rate cut will erode access to care for Medicaid dental patients, resulting in increased ER visits and needless pain and disease. Current dental Medicaid rates don't begin to cover the cost of providing services. Average Medicaid reimbursement is about 50% of the usual fee and dental office overhead runs about 70% of all fees collected, so dentists in effect subsidize the dental Medicaid program. Despite this, more the two-thirds of Montana dentists treat Medicaid patients. This fee reduction makes it more uncertain that many dental practices will be able to continue as Medicaid providers.

MDA is committed to help legislators and the Governor find ways to resolve the budget crisis without making these harmful cuts in dental services.

**Legislative Finance Committee
Oct. 4, 2017
Exhibit 23**

Agency Change Package Detail

Department: 69010 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Version: 2019F0669010

Program: 11

Type: NP

Status: Included

Number: 691111

Group: None

Description: Eliminate - Medicaid Services - dental coverage of high cost, extensive dental procedures and dentur

Request Expenditures

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
67098 UNALLOCTED BENEFITS		(\$8,910,058)	(\$8,910,058)	(\$17,820,116)
First Level Subtotal		(\$8,910,058)	(\$8,910,058)	(\$17,820,116)
Total Request Expenditures		(\$8,910,058)	(\$8,910,058)	(\$17,820,116)

Request Funding

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
01100 General Fund	0	(\$3,077,534)	(\$3,077,534)	(\$6,155,068)
Fund Type Subtotal		(\$3,077,534)	(\$3,077,534)	(\$6,155,068)
03004 EMS Data Injury	0	(\$5,832,524)	(\$5,832,524)	(\$11,665,048)
Fund Type Subtotal		(\$5,832,524)	(\$5,832,524)	(\$11,665,048)
Total Request Funding		(\$8,910,058)	(\$8,910,058)	(\$17,820,116)

Description and Justification

Eliminate dental coverage of high cost, extensive dental procedures and dentures for the adult Medicaid population. The Department will continue to provide preventive and diagnostic dental services along with a basic restorative package to prevent a cost shift to higher levels of care. Members (population/acuity): 44,774

Providers: 603 total - dentists 584 and denturists 1

Agency Change Package Detail

Department: 69010 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Version: 2019F0669010

Program: 11

Type: NP

Status: Included

Number: 691120

Group: None

Description: Reduce Services - Medicaid Orthodontia

Request Expenditures

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
67098 UNALLOCTED BENEFITS		(\$1,284,470)	(\$1,284,470)	(\$2,568,940)
First Level Subtotal		(\$1,284,470)	(\$1,284,470)	(\$2,568,940)
Total Request Expenditures		(\$1,284,470)	(\$1,284,470)	(\$2,568,940)

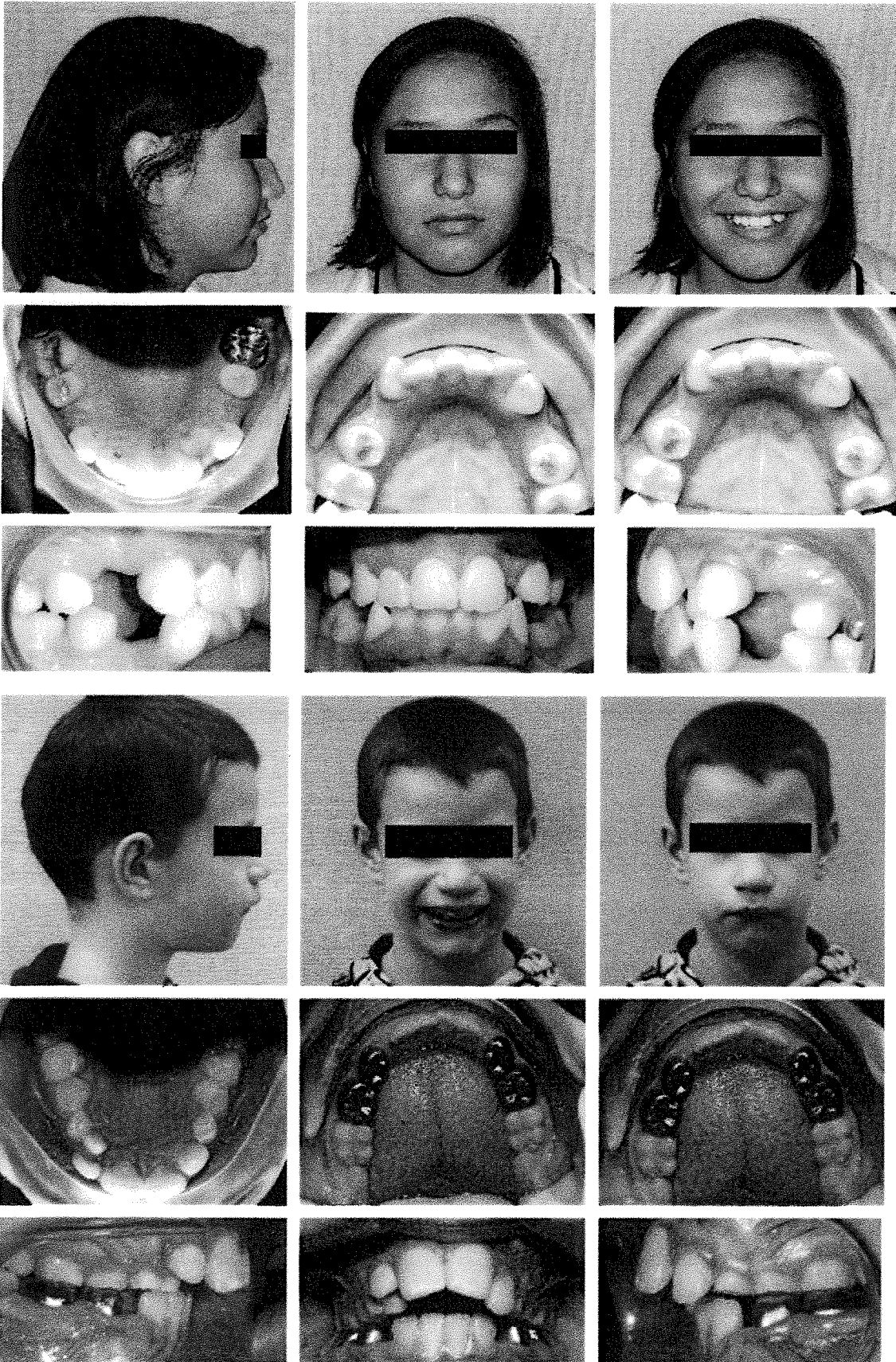
Request Funding

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
01100 General Fund	0	(\$443,656)	(\$443,656)	(\$887,312)
Fund Type Subtotal		(\$443,656)	(\$443,656)	(\$887,312)
03004 EMS Data Injury	0	(\$840,814)	(\$840,814)	(\$1,681,628)
Fund Type Subtotal		(\$840,814)	(\$840,814)	(\$1,681,628)
Total Request Funding		(\$1,284,470)	(\$1,284,470)	(\$2,568,940)

Description and Justification

Medicaid would redefine the medical necessity criteria for members under the age of 20 to receive orthodontia benefits to reduce the number of members eligible for the benefit. The Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviation (HLD) scoring index would increase from 25 to 30 and will result in denials of approximately 25% of the orthodontia requests that are currently approved

Children who would not qualify for medically necessary orthodontia under the dental Medicaid budget cut



Agency Change Package Detail

Department: 69010 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Version: 2019F0669010

Program: 10

Type: NP

Status: Included

Number: 691007

Group: None

Description: Eliminate Contract - Dental Lifeline

Request Expenditures

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
67098	UNALLOCTED BENEFITS	(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)
	First Level Subtotal	(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)
Total Request Expenditures		(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)

Request Funding

	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
01100	General Fund	(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)
	Fund Type Subtotal	(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)
Total Request Funding		(\$30,000)	(\$30,000)	(\$60,000)

Description and Justification

Eliminates contract that provides coordination activities between dentists and individuals to improve dental care availability for individuals with a disability.

Dental Lifeline Network • Montana

July 2017



Dental Lifeline
Network • Montana

More than Dentistry. Life.

Formerly the Montana Foundation of
Dentistry for the Handicapped

P.O. Box 1154
Helena, MT 59624
406.449.9670
Toll Free: 888.449.9670
Fax: 406.443.1546
www.DentalLifeline.org



Dr. Andrew Ordelheide
(Plains), volunteer since
2012, with his DDS
patient.

148 patients are
waiting for care in
these counties:

- Cascade
- Custer
- Lincoln
- Missoula
- Ravalli
- Silver Bow

Will you see one?

WillYouSeeOne.org

In 1997, the Montana Dental Association partnered with Dental Lifeline Network • Montana in developing a Donated Dental Services (DDS) program to help people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and had no other access to dental care. The Montana DDS program is similar to programs developed by Dental Lifeline Network in 41 other states. DLN projects that DDS volunteers will provide almost \$25 million in donated treatment in fiscal year 2016-2017. **Since inception, Montana dentists and labs have donated over \$4.3 million worth of comprehensive treatment for 1,285 vulnerable people.**

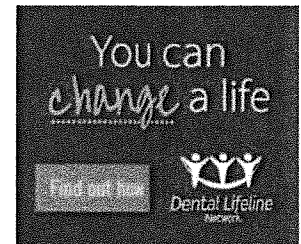
MDA – Thank you! We truly appreciate your efforts in increasing DDS state funding and your support of DLN and the DDS Program!

Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program Totals	
Fiscal Year 2016-17 (7/1/16-6/30/17)	
Donated Treatment Value	\$313,505
Donated Lab Value	\$27,733
Average Value of Treatment*	\$3,563
Patients Treated	88
Active Patients	46
Patients on Wait-list	148
Participating Dentists	190
Participating Labs in MT	49
Participating Labs outside MT	15

*Average value is based on patients receiving comprehensive treatment; does not include patients who continue to receive ongoing care from their DDS volunteer.

The DDS program restores the oral health and often transforms the lives of the patients we serve, like 50-old Mr. K. who lives alone in Helena. He has developmental disabilities and cannot read or write; and suffers from attention deficit disorder, hypertension and depression. Mr. K. was missing all but three teeth, but sadly, he could not afford dentures. Despite his disabilities, Mr. K. works the night shift as a house person at a local hotel. He earns just enough to pay for very basic necessities and cannot even afford the medication he needs. He was able to get his remaining teeth extracted at a local health clinic, but the clinic did not provide him dentures and he couldn't afford them. Fortunately he was referred to the DDS program and Mr. K. was linked with two generous volunteers who agreed to help: a general dentist and a lab. **Thanks to this team, Mr. K. received \$4,552 in donated care that restored his oral health and gave him a reason to smile!** He shared his appreciation for this amazing gift.

"Your help made a big difference in my life. I don't have to hide my mouth anymore. My teeth eat really good, and people tell me my new teeth look real. I really, really appreciate all your help."



Contact Margaret Petrick at mpetrick@dentallifeline.org or 406.449.9670 www.DentalLifeline.org/Volunteer



Dental Lifeline
Network • Montana

More than Dentistry. Life.

Montana
Donated Dental Services (DDS)

P.O. Box 1154
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Fax: 406.443.1546
www.DentalLifeline.org

Montana Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program **A Good Investment for the State!**

Dental Lifeline Network • Montana (DLN) through its Donated Dental Services (DDS) program has helped over a thousand vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and have no other way to get help. **Since 1997, 1,288 individuals have received almost \$4.4 million in comprehensive care** from a volunteer network that has grown to 192 dentists (39% of MDA members) and 43 dental laboratories. DLN a non-profit affiliate of the ADA, started in 1974 and operates the DDS program in all 50 states.

Request: SAVE the \$30,000 FY 2018-19 appropriation for the Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program.

Program Description: In 1997, Dental Lifeline Network and the Montana Dental Association established the Montana DDS program to help some of the state's most vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford dental treatment. As a result of their ages or disabilities, many cannot work and depend on public aid for health care. Medicare, however, does not cover dental treatment and the state's Medicaid program provides limited benefits to adults. The DDS program serves as a resource of last resort for these individuals.

Through DDS, dentists and dental laboratories across the state each volunteer to provide comprehensive treatment to one or two patients per year. Volunteer dentists treat DDS patients in their own dental offices, which allows them to use their own equipment and staff. Dental labs also have been very generous and several national manufacturers donate materials for dentures, crowns, bridges and implants. Although volunteers donate their services, funding is needed to coordinate the care.

A part-time DDS Coordinator, located in Helena, manages services and is critical to the program's success. She conducts telephone interviews to screen the applicants and determines eligibility. In addition, the coordinator links eligible patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitors patient progress, arranges lab services, acquires the help of specialists as necessary and follows up with the patient and volunteers.

Since 1997, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services has provided grants to support DDS. Last year the state provided \$30,000 in funding and 88 vulnerable people received \$313,505 in donated treatment. Since inception, 1,288 people have received \$4,386,198 in donated dental care.

Program Impact: The DDS program restores the oral health and often transforms the lives of people who would not otherwise receive care, like 59-year-old Ms. L., who lives alone in Shepherd. She has developmental disabilities and was in special education classes as a child. Though she has minimal reading and writing skills, she is able to work part-time as a housekeeper at a local hotel. Ms. L.'s oral health was poor, but she could not afford the dental care she needed and does not receive any public assistance. Fortunately, through the DDS program she was linked with a team of generous volunteers who restored her oral health. She was thankful for these services and said *"It has been the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me. I am punkier. I smile more, and everyone notices the change in me. I am able to eat better, smell better, and I even lost 10 pounds!"*

Request: Restore \$30,000 in the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services' FY 2018-19 budget and save the Montana Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program.

At a Glance - DDS Program:

- **Target Population: People with disabilities, or who are elderly, or medically fragile and indigent**
- **1,288 Patients treated**
- **\$4,386,198 Value of donated dental care**
- **\$3,400 Average value of care per patient**
- **~\$10.00 Donated care for every dollar spent.**
- **192 Volunteer dentists (39% of MDA members)**
- **53 Volunteer labs**
- **150 patients on wait list**

For more information contact: David Hemion at dave@montanadental.org or 406-443-2061;
or Hollie Stevenson at hstevenson@dental lifeline.org or 720-287-6185.

Montana DDS Patients (Active and Completed) Located by City (9.27.17)

City	# Patients	City	# Patients	City	# Patients	City	# Patients
Absarokee	1	Dupuyer	1	Lewistown	19	Two Dot	1
Acton	1	Dutton	1	Libby	5	Ulm	1
Alberton	2	East Glacier	1	Lincoln	2	Victor	4
Alder	1	East Helena	12	Livingston	25	Virginia City	1
Anaconda	27	Elliston	1	Lolo	4	West Yellowstone	2
Arlee	3	Ennis	6	Lothair	2	White Sulphur Spg	1
Ashland	1	Eureka	7	Malta	1	Whitefish	19
Augusta	1	Fairfield	3	Manhattan	3	Whitehall	6
Avon	1	Fallon	1	Marion	9	Wisdom	1
Baker	2	Florence	1	Miles City	24	Worden	2
Ballantine	1	Forsyth	1	Missoula	119	Zortman	2
Basin	1	Fort Benton	3	Nashua	4	Zurich	2
Belfry	1	Fort Shaw	1	Noxon	4		
Belgrade	17	Fortine	2	Pablo	2		
Belt	1	Frazer	2	Paradise	1		
Big Timber	2	Frenchtown	1	Park City	4		
Bigfork	11	Froid	1	Philipsburg	2		
Billings	248	Fromberg	1	Pinesdale	3		
Bonner	1	Gallatin Gateway	1	Plains	6		
Boulder	7	Garrison	2	Plentywood	5		
Bozeman	37	Garryowen	1	Polson	23		
Bridger	8	Geraldine	2	Pony	1		
Broadview	1	Glasgow	6	Poplar	1		
Browning	2	Glendive	6	Proctor	1		
Butte	86	Gold Creek	1	Red Lodge	6		
Cascade	2	Great Falls	46	Reed Point	2		
Charlo	2	Hamilton	32	Rexford	1		
Chester	1	Hardin	4	Roberts	2		
Chinook	4	Harlem	1	Rollins	1		
Choteau	5	Harlowton	1	Ronan	9		
Circle	2	Havre	19	Roundup	16		
Clancy	3	Helena	116	Ryegate	3		
Clinton	1	Helmville	1	Seeley Lake	4		
Columbia Falls	23	Heron	1	Shelby	1		
Columbus	2	Hilger	2	Shepherd	6		
Conrad	5	Hot Springs	8	Sheridan	1		
Coram	1	Hungry Horse	1	Sidney	6		
Corvallis	7	Huntley	4	Springdale	1		
Craig	1	Huson	3	St. Ignatius	5		
Crane	1	Hysham	2	St. Regis	2		
Creston	1	Jefferson City	1	Stevensville	26		
Custer	1	Joliet	7	Stockett	1		
Cut Bank	2	Jordan	2	Superior	8		
Darby	9	Kalispell	104	Thompson Falls	3		
Dayton	1	Kila	5	Three Forks	2		
Deer Lodge	16	Lakeside	5	Townsend	5		
Dillon	9	Lambert	1	Trego	2		
Dixon	1	Laurel	16	Troy	3		
Drummond	7	Lavina	1	Twin Bridges	1		

Montana DDS Program Pending Applicants (9/27/17)

City	Pending Applicants
Absarokee	1
Anaconda	1
Belgrade	3
Belt	1
Billings	34
Black Eagle	1
Boulder	1
Bozeman	4
Butte	5
Cascade	1
Conner	1
Corvallis	2
Dillon	1
East Helena	4
Ennis	1
Fairfield	1
Florence	3
Forsyth	1
Frenchtown	2
Glendive	1
Great Falls	5
Greenough	1
Hamilton	12
Helena	9
Kalispell	9
Laurel	2
Lavina	1
Lolo	1
Miles City	5
Missoula	26
Polson	2
Ronan	1
Seeley Lake	1
Sidney	1
St. Ignatius	1
Stevensville	2
Terry	1
Troy	1
Victor	1
White Sulphur Spring	1
Whitefish	1
Whitehall	1
Total	154

Montana DDS Treatment by Disability

From: 1/1/2013 - 9/27/17

Disability	Patients	Treatment Value
Musculoskeletal (Orthopedic) Disorders	101	\$294,776.79
Elderly	68	\$188,824.06
Serious and Persistent Mental Illness	58	\$172,707.83
Current Cancer Patient	40	\$103,455.15
Diabetes	38	\$120,270.82
Neurological Disorders	35	\$84,533.50
Heart Disease	31	\$95,790.00
Auto-immune Diseases	28	\$88,024.00
Developmental Disorders or Delay	25	\$50,961.00
Traumatic Brain Injury	25	\$66,372.00
Circulatory Disorders	17	\$54,280.00
Other	17	\$41,971.00
Respiratory Diseases	16	\$36,792.00
Kidney/Renal Diseases	8	\$17,287.00
Blood Disorders	5	\$15,130.00
Intestinal Disorders	5	\$13,642.00
Deaf	4	\$32,877.00
Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders	4	\$30,054.80
Spinal Cord Injuries	3	\$5,163.00
Liver Diseases	1	\$4,635.00
Muscle Disorders	1	\$4,551.00

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