















Dental Therapy State Law Comparison

| | AK  | MN  | ME  | VT  | AZ  | MI  | ID  | NM  | NV  | CT  | OR  | CO  | WA  | WI  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year authorized | 2004 | 2009 | 2014 (amended in 2019 & 2023) | 2016 | 2018 | 2018 (amended in 2020) | 2019 | 2019 | 2019 | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2017/2023* | 2024 |
| Authorizing authority | Federal | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State | State |
| Link to Statute | Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Standards | HF 535 | LD 1230, LD 1441, LD 1581 | SB 20 | HB 2235 | SB 541, HB 5827 | SB 1129 | HB 308 | SB 366 | SB 807 | HB 2528 | SB 219 | SB 5079 | SB 689 |
| Received state license? | No (federal CHAP certification) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No (certification on top of hygiene license) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Practice setting restrictions | Tribal health system | Public health facility, Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or 50%+ of patients be underserved | None | None | Tribal clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and look-alikes | Public health facility or 50+% of patients underserved | Tribal health system | Tribal clinics and public health facilities | Public health facility or 50+% of patients underserved | Public health facilities | Public health facility, HPSA or 50%+ of patients be underserved | None | Tribal clinics, FQHCs and look-alikes | HPSA or 50%+ of patients be underserved |
| Education | CHAP board certified program (which must meet or exceed Commission on Dental Accreditation [CODA] standards) | Program approved by MN dental board or CODA accredited | CODA accredited or a program the dental board deems equivalent | CODA accredited (unless applying for licensure by endorsement) | CODA accredited (unless licensed in another state first)** | CODA accredited or a program the dental board deems equivalent | CODA accredited | CODA accredited | CODA accredited | CODA accredited | CODA accredited or participant in OR dental therapy pilots | CODA accredited or AK/MN program developed before the adoption of CODA standards in 2015 | CODA accredited or graduated before Sept. 2022 from a program the dental board deems equivalent | CODA accredited or at the time of graduation was approved by the MN dental board and was subsequently CODA accredited |
| Specific degree required? | No | Dental Therapist (DT): BS Advanced Dental Therapist (ADT): MS | MS | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Hygiene degree required? | No | No | Yes | Yes (unless applying for licensure by endorsement) | Yes (unless licensed in another state first or practicing in Tribal settings)** | No | No | Yes (except in Tribal settings) | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Minimum level of supervision after completing clinical hours | General | DT: Varies by procedure ADT: General | General | General | General | General | General | General or on-site supervision depending on procedure | General | General | General or on-site supervision depending on procedure | General or on-site supervision depending on procedure | General | General |
| Minimum clinical hours before full licensure or general supervision | 400 hours | 2,000 hours | 2,000 hours | 1,000 hours | 1,000 hours | 500 hours | 500 hours | 1,500-2,000 hours | 500-1,500 hours | 1,000 hours | None | 1,000 hours | 400 hours if graduated from non-CODA accredited program | 2,000 hours |

Note: Dental therapists in the Tribal health system can work under a state license or a federal certification under the Community Health Aide Program, however, in the Lower 48, a state must have also authorized dental therapists in order for them to be able to work under a CHAP certification.

*Dental therapists were authorized in Washington Tribal communities in 2017 and in FQHCs and look-alikes in 2023

** Under its Universal License Recognition law, Arizona allows dental therapists who are Arizona residents and licensed in other states to receive a license in Arizona