

# HEALTHY MOUTHS, HEALTHY BODIES BOTH ARE NEEDED TO AGE IN PLACE

## THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

promotes aging in place by connecting millions of older adults to much needed community social services such as...

Nearly **90 percent** of older adults want to stay in their own homes as they age, often referred to as "Aging in Place."<sup>1</sup>

**FOR THE FIRST TIME** a small provision allows the aging network to use funds they receive for disease prevention and health promotion activities to conduct oral health screenings at no added cost.



**ORAL  
HEALTH  
SCREENINGS!**

elder abuse protection



caregivers



transportation



meals



## WHY ORAL HEALTH?

Oral health screenings are used to identify signs of disease, reveal general health status and recommend further dental or medical care. For this reason, preventive oral healthcare can significantly impact overall health and cost.

For example, in 2010 alone between **\$867 million - \$2.1 billion** was spent on emergency dental procedures.<sup>2</sup>

When compared to care delivered in a dentist's office, hospital treatments are nearly **10 TIMES** more expensive than the routine care that could have prevented the emergency.<sup>3</sup>

### SOURCES:

1. Farber, Nicholas, Douglas Shinkle, Jana Lynott, Wendy Fox-Grage, and Rodney Harrell. Aging in Place. Denver: National Conference of State Legislatures, 2011. AARP. AARP, Dec. 2011. Web.
2. The PEW Charitable Trusts. "A Costly Dental Destination Hospital Care Means States Pay Dearly." The PEW Center on the States. The PEW Charitable Trusts, Feb. 2012. Web.
3. Allareddy, Veerasathpurush, Sankeerth Rampa, Min Kyeong, Veerajalandhav Allareddy, and Romesh Nalliah. "Hospital-based Emergency Departments Visits Involving Dental Conditions." *The Journal of the American Dental Association* 145(4): 331-37. JADA. American Dental Association, May 2014. Web.