

Smiles Change Lives

Program Overview and Application Process

Smiles Change Lives (SCL) is happy to provide this **once in a lifetime opportunity** for your child to receive braces.

QUALIFICATIONS: Your child must meet **ALL** qualifications to apply to the program.

- Be 7-18 years of age (must receive application prior to the **child's 19th birthday**)
- Have "good" oral hygiene and no unfilled cavities
- Have a moderate to severe need for braces
- Not be wearing braces currently
- Have a total household income **at or below** our financial guidelines as listed at www.smileschangelives.org/financial, which varies by geographic location (see page 4 for more information)
- Be willing to pay the **non-refundable \$30 (USD) application fee** and the **non-refundable \$650 (USD) Required Financial Investment** (per child)

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Prior to applying, check the SCL website to determine the availability of providers and average minimum wait times for your area. Unfortunately, we do not currently have providers available in some areas. Upon receipt of a **COMPLETE** application, the application will be reviewed and the family will be notified whether or not your child qualifies for the next step in the application process. **If your application is INCOMPLETE**, it will be returned to you and, in order to be considered for the program, **you will be required to submit a NEW complete application, including an additional \$30 (USD) non-refundable fee.**
2. Once SCL has received a complete application, it will be reviewed by the SCL Review Panel and the family will be notified whether the child (i) meets initial qualifications for the program and is ready to move to the next step in the application process, which is being placed on a waitlist for a screening appointment, (ii) is declined for the program, or (iii) will need further evaluation (due to poor oral hygiene, dental development, or other potential issues).
3. If your child meets the initial qualifications for the program, SCL will work to assign the child with an orthodontic provider for a screening appointment to evaluate your child's orthodontic needs. Your general dentist/dental clinic will be asked to complete a Dental Referral Form at this time to be sent to the screening orthodontist for review. If there are no openings in your area, you will be notified that you have been put on a wait list and that we are working to locate a provider in your area for your child.

NOTE: The waiting period for this step of the process varies and **can be longer than twelve (12) months** based on area demand. Likewise, treatment providers are limited in some areas, and **SCL cannot make any guarantees of placement with a provider. If a treatment provider has not been assigned BEFORE your child turns 19, he or she will be removed from the wait list and will no longer be eligible for treatment.**

4. Following the screening appointment, SCL will notify you if your child has been approved for treatment and who the treating provider will be (the screening orthodontist is not always the provider who will perform the treatment). , you will be notified and **will have 30 days from the date of the notification letter in which to pay the nonrefundable \$650 (USD) Required Financial Investment.** We cannot accept partial payments. We cannot accept payments from Flexible Spending Accounts or Health Savings Accounts. If this fee is not received by SCL in full within 30 days of notification, your child will lose his/her placement in the SCL program and will not be able to re-apply.

This financial investment secures your child's beautiful new smile. Likewise, when you pay the Required Financial Investment, you know that not only will your child benefit, but that you are also "paying it forward" to help the program be available to assist other families in the future.

5. Upon receipt of payment, your child will be assigned to an SCL treatment provider and will be on their way to a healthy, happy smile!