



# 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 7-21 years of age (must receive application prior to the child's 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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. Upon receipt of a COMPLETE application, the application will be reviewed and the family will be notified whether or not the 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) is qualified for the program and will be placed on a wait list, (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 is qualified for the program, SCL will work to assign the child with a provider. If there are no treatment 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 treatment 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 22, he or she will be removed from the wait list and will no longer be eligible for treatment.

4. Once a treatment provider is located for your child, 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!