Frequently Asked Questions: Alternative Pathway to ABDPH Certification

1. What is the alternative pathway to American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH) examination eligibility?
   The alternative pathway is a new set of requirements that allows dental public health practitioners who have not completed an accredited residency program to become eligible to take the board examination.

2. Who is eligible to apply through the alternative pathway for ABDPH examination?
   All dental public health practitioners who meet the educational requirements but have not completed an accredited dental public health residency program in the United States or Canada.

3. Are the educational requirements for alternative pathway different from the traditional pathway?
   No. The educational requirements for both pathways are exactly the same.

4. How are the alternative pathway requirements different from the traditional pathway?
   The alternative pathway requires the candidate to provide sufficient documentation to demonstrate that their experience is comparable to that obtained in a dental public health residency program.

5. How long is the alternative pathway open for candidates to apply?
   It is available only until August 15, 2022.

6. Who reviews the documentation to determine eligibility for ABDPH board examination?
   The ABDPH will review candidates’ documentation to determine board eligibility.

7. What are the relevant experiences required in the alternative pathway?
   All relevant experiences must cover the ten established competencies in dental public health.

8. What is the minimum number of years of experience required in the alternative pathway?
   A minimum of 15 years’ experience in a relevant dental public health area is required. Examples include research, academia, or program administration.

9. Is an applicant required to submit letters of recommendation?
   Yes. Two letters of recommendation from Diplomates of the American Board of Dental Public Health are needed.

10. Where can I find the full documentation on the alternative pathway?
    More detailed information about the alternative pathway is available on the American Board of Dental Public Health website: www.aaphd.org under the “ABDPH” tab.