

# Washington Dental Service

## FOR RELEASE:

November 3, 2023

## MEDIA CONTACTS:

Randy Hurlow, APR

WHY For Good on behalf of Delta Dental of Washington

[randy@whyforgood.com](mailto:randy@whyforgood.com)

206.778.5523

## Washington Dental Service Makes Strategic Investment in Software Firm to Drive Technology Transformation within the Dental Industry

**SEATTLE** – Washington Dental Service (WDS) – parent company of [Delta Dental of Washington](#), a leading innovator in the oral healthcare industry – announced today it has acquired 50% of [8 West Consulting](#). 8 West Consulting, a strategic partner to Delta Dental of Washington for more than 23 years, builds, maintains, and operates technology systems for global clients in the healthcare and retail sectors.

The investment represents a milestone for WDS, accelerating its strategic approach to leveraging technology to transform and innovate the oral healthcare landscape.

“We believe that technology will be central to driving innovations within our company and the oral health industry. This investment brings together the right teams, tools, and skills to enable Delta Dental of Washington to better serve our customers, our members, our community, and dentists while striving to achieve our mission of disrupting, innovating and transforming our industry,” said WDS and Delta Dental of Washington President & CEO Mark Mitchke.

Together the companies will focus on developing and deploying new capabilities, competencies, and products for their clients and partners that will foster innovation across the healthcare industry.

“8 West will continue to be a dynamic software development company providing leading edge professional services to its existing clients but will now be part of a bigger strategy to help Delta Dental of Washington transform the oral healthcare industry through innovative technology solutions and products. Bringing 8 West into Washington Dental Service will align our teams of experts around a transformation focus, ensure financial strength for both companies, and provide more opportunities for growth,” said 8 West Consulting’s Chief Executive Officer, Eamonn Franklin.

While both 8 West Consulting and Delta Dental of Washington will continue to operate independently, they will work closely together to identify opportunities and deliver solutions to automate manual processes, improve customer and provider experiences, and increase data-driven decision-making for dental carriers.

WDS will leverage this transaction to grow and expand its digital programs and services – such as improving benefits eligibility information and accessibility and claims processing speed for dental offices, providing self-service access to benefits information, claims payments and real-time expert support for members, and incorporating artificial intelligence to automate administrative tasks for payors.

### **About Washington Dental Service**

Washington Dental Service (WDS) is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization working to promote the welfare of communities with a focus on improving people's oral and overall health. WDS serves as the holding company for Delta Dental of Washington and other affiliated entities.

### **About Delta Dental of Washington**

Founded 70 years ago by Seattle area dentists who set out to revolutionize oral health care, an innovative program was developed to provide longshoremen's children access to dental care – and the concept of dental benefits was born. Today [Delta Dental of Washington](#), a not-for-profit, is the state's leading dental benefits provider covering nearly 4 million people statewide and beyond.

Through corporate philanthropy, oral health advocacy, and funding the [Arcora Foundation](#), Delta Dental of Washington plays a vital role in making dental care more equitable and accessible, increasing dental health education with an emphasis on youth, and expanding diversity at all levels within the dental profession. These collective efforts aim to improve oral health care in Washington so all people can enjoy good oral and overall health with no one left behind. Delta Dental of Washington is part of the Delta Dental Plans Association, consisting of 39 independent, affiliated member companies. For more information, visit: [www.deltadentalwa.com](http://www.deltadentalwa.com).

### **About 8 West Consulting**

8 West Consulting is a software development company providing businesses with high-quality, scalable, maintainable, secure and cost-effective software solutions. Based in Cork, Ireland and operating since 1998, 8 West Consulting specializes in dental insurance and retail markets, as well as other industries ranging from publishing to remote patient monitoring. As a process-driven organization, the firm – which is ISO 270001-certified (the international gold standard for information security management) – offers a full range of portfolio/product/project management, development, business analysis and quality assurance services.

###