

Access Advocacy



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention

Happy New Year, and welcome to the January 2026 edition of Access Advocacy!

The year began with significant advocacy efforts to protect critical suicide prevention and mental health funding. On January 13, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [issued termination letters for numerous federal grants](#), ending funding for suicide prevention and behavioral health programs effective immediately.

Volunteers and advocates mobilized quickly, sending more than 2,500 messages to legislators across 48 states and the District of Columbia. Within just 48 hours, the administration informed media outlets that the decision to terminate thousands of suicide prevention and mental health grants [had been reversed](#), a major victory for saving lives and safeguarding essential resources.

This outcome would not have been possible without your advocacy!

This was a significant win for suicide prevention and a reminder of the power of advocacy. We are grateful for all those who stayed informed, raised their voices, and stood ready to act during a period of real uncertainty. Thank you for being part of this community and for everything you do to help save lives.

Legislative Updates

Federal

As of January 2026, Congress is still working to pass a Fiscal Year 2026 funding agreement that would fund the federal government through September 30. While negotiations on a final funding package continue, we have an exciting update on the status of AFSP's key programs.

On January 20, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees [released](#) a conferenced "minibus" package that includes the Labor HHS Education appropriations bill. This package preserves funding for several of AFSP's top priorities, with programs largely maintained at prior-year levels and some receiving slight increases:

- [\\$30 million for the CDC's Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program \(CSP\)](#)
- [\\$534.6 million for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)
- [\\$2.189 billion for the National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)

This is an important step towards providing robust funding for critical suicide prevention programs and matches AFSP's requests for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the CDC's CSP, with NIMH funding being *slightly* lower. The strong bipartisan support for suicide prevention in Congress would not be possible without your strong advocacy, and we are sincerely grateful for your support. Advocates can continue to play a vital role as the Labor-HHS bill moves to consideration by the full Senate.

The House has already passed the funding bill, and the Senate may act this week ahead of the January 30 funding deadline. We encourage you to contact your members of Congress, particularly those serving on the Appropriations Committees, to thank them for supporting robust funding for suicide prevention and mental health programs and to urge their continued support as the Labor-HHS-Education bill advances to the full chamber.

Use the “Take Action” button below to contact your members of Congress and help ensure strong funding for lifesaving suicide prevention programs.

[Click Here to Thank Congress for Supporting Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Funding in FY26](#)

State



[Advocacy Action Days](#) are now in full swing across the country!

Advocacy Action Days bring passionate advocates together in state capitals to share their personal stories, connect with one another, and urge public officials to take action to prevent suicide. They empower advocates like you to be the voice for suicide prevention through advocacy! **Join us to have YOUR voice heard and help us inspire meaningful and lifesaving policy change.**

As part of the Advocacy Action Day, you'll be trained on the basics of effective advocacy and the top policy priorities for your AFSP chapter this legislative session. You'll also be given time to interact with your fellow advocates and practice what you learned before heading to the capitol complex to meet face-to-face with lawmakers and rally their support.

[AFSP chapters are hosting 2026 Advocacy Action Day events](#) in almost every state capital across the U.S., from January through May -- and your voices DO make a difference! Last year, we celebrated **28 state bills** enacted into law that were supported at AFSP Advocacy Action Days!

Register to join us today! [Click here to view our calendar of events](#) -- if you don't see an Advocacy Action Day listed yet for your state, contact your local AFSP chapter (afsp.org/chapters) for more info.



Advocacy Tips

1. You don't need to be a policy expert to make a meaningful impact. Anyone can play a role in advancing suicide prevention when they take part in advocacy efforts that help educate public officials about the importance of this work.
2. Connect with your [local AFSP Chapter](#) to learn how to get involved and take the first step toward supporting meaningful policy change in your state.
3. You can also explore [resources](#) designed for both new and seasoned advocates to become more familiar with AFSP's Public Policy Priorities and discover ways to make a difference as a Volunteer Advocate.

Resources

SAMHSA has released an updated [988 Fact Sheet](#) in the 988 Partner Toolkit. The new version offers a clear overview of what people can expect when contacting 988, along with brief testimonials and FAQs.

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