

Support Strong Federal Funding for Suicide Prevention Programs and Research

AFSP urges Congress and federal agencies to make smart, strong, and sustained investment in suicide prevention programs, research, and surveillance. With effective federal support, suicide prevention efforts can achieve meaningful reductions in mortality, just as sustained investment has advanced progress against other major public health concerns.

The Facts



Federal budget and appropriations processes play a prominent role in driving prevention, intervention, and postvention activities at all levels of government.



Research funding helps public health professionals identify and support those at higher risk of suicide.

AFSP Recommendations

Increase funding for suicide prevention related:

- Research at [NIMH](#) and other key [NIH institutes and centers](#), as well as the expansion of [suicide prevention research centers](#)
- Programming at the CDC, including the [CSP](#) and [NVDRS](#)
- Programming at [SAMHSA](#), including [988](#)

Background

- Due to a reliance on inconsistent and fragmented funding streams, the suicide prevention infrastructure in many states is limited and under-resourced, making federal funding opportunities and [grant programs](#) such as the CSP, GLS for youth, and NSSP imperative to the implementation of effective, sustainable statewide suicide prevention strategiesⁱ
- CSP provides health departments, university research programs, and non-profits with dedicated suicide prevention funding, focusing on data-informed, community-driven strategies aimed at groups at highest risk; preliminary data show that between 2019 and 2023, CSP recipient states reported a 1.45% reduction in suicide rates overall, compared to a 1.73% increase across the countryⁱⁱ
- Effective suicide prevention strategies require complete, accurate, and timely data about who is dying by suicide and the surrounding circumstances; NVDRS data informs lawmakers on how to allocate resources and to shape effective policies
- Federal investments fund the backbone of 988, including administration and infrastructure, the national subnetwork and backup capacity, public awareness, and the [988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office](#)

With smart, sustained investment, we save lives and provide hope to the millions of people living in the U.S. that are impacted by suicide.

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Reference Table for Agencies and Grant Programs Mentioned

For a complete list of the agencies and grant programs that impact AFSP's work, visit afsp.org/FederalInvestmentPolicy.

Acronym	Agency Name or Program	Description
NIH	National Institutes of Health	NIH is the nation's medical research agency made up of 27 Institutes and Centers, each with a specific focus.
NIMH	National Institute of Mental Health	NIMH, an Institute under the NIH, is the lead federal agency for research on mental disorders, including suicide prevention research. NIMH supports and conducts research to understand who is at risk of suicide and why, and evaluates the effectiveness of different suicide prevention programs.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC is the nation's leading science-based, data-driven, service organization that protects the public's health. CDC uses data, science, and partnerships to identify and implement effective suicide prevention strategies, and funds recipients to address suicide risk among groups with high or increasing rates of suicide.
CSP	Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Program	The CSP supports community-oriented public health approaches to preventing suicide. The CSP currently funds 24 initiatives nationwide to help prevent suicide among high-risk populations, including Veterans, rural communities, and youth/young adults, as well as the real-time collection of data from emergency departments on suicide attempts and suicidal ideation.
NVDRS	National Violent Death Reporting System	NVDRS collects information about violent deaths including homicides, suicides, and deaths caused by law enforcement acting in the line of duty. NVDRS is a crucial source of data related to trends in suicide, helping researchers, health professionals, and others understand how best to prevent suicide.
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	SAMHSA leads public health programs – including the 988 Lifeline and key suicide prevention grant programs – that treat mental illness, prevent substance abuse and addiction, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring access and better outcomes.
GLS	Garrett Lee Smith	The GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Program helps state and tribal communities implement comprehensive suicide prevention strategies.
NSSP	National Strategy for Suicide Prevention	The NSSP Grant Program provides funding to states, tribes, and community-based organizations to implement comprehensive, evidence-based suicide prevention and intervention programs.

ⁱ SPRC. (2019). *Recommendations for state suicide prevention infrastructure*. Waltham, MA: Education Development Center, Inc. <https://sprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SPRC-State-Infrastructure-Full-Recommendations.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) 2023 Preliminary Data Update, available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.