

Using the SPRC State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations

About the Recommendations

Developed with an advisory panel of experts and interested parties, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC)'s State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations are designed to help state policy leaders assess the status of their current statewide suicide prevention efforts and address any needed improvements. Ideally, the Infrastructure Recommendations will inform and influence state policy and administrative decisions to improve sustained suicide prevention efforts across the United States.

The Infrastructure Recommendations lay out six essential infrastructure elements for advancing state suicide prevention efforts; each essential element (Authorize, Lead, Partner, Examine, Build, and Guide) includes activities that demonstrate a minimum level of commitment to that element and activities that can support a more advanced approach.

The Infrastructure Recommendations are not an attempt to create a single model of infrastructure for states to follow. Rather, they should be used by states to develop their most supportive statewide suicide prevention infrastructure based on the state's unique needs as well as research and current practice across wide disciplines in prevention, public health, government, and related sectors.

Format

The Infrastructure Recommendations live online at sprc.org/state-infrastructure, with an interactive landing page that allows you to expand and learn more about each essential element and read real-life state [success stories](#). You may also download a [full report](#) of the Infrastructure Recommendations and make use of various [supplementary tools](#) provided by SPRC and other leading organizations.

Target Audience

Ideally these Infrastructure Recommendations will be used by state policy leaders to guide related policymaking, funding, and administrative decisions. They may also be used by other interested parties that support and influence suicide prevention at the federal, state, and local levels, including funders, suicide prevention coordinators, coalitions, nonprofits and community organizations, advocates, and researchers.

How You Can Help

Bring these Infrastructure Recommendations to the attention of state lawmakers and other public officials engaged in (or who should be engaged in) statewide suicide prevention efforts and funding decisions. These Infrastructure Recommendations can be used when meeting with state legislators and agency leads to encourage an objective assessment of which of the six essential elements are currently being carried out in your state and where more advanced implementation support is needed.

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The remainder of this document is divided into three sections:

1. Suggested **prep-work** to be completed prior to meeting with a state legislator or agency lead to discuss the Infrastructure Recommendations.
2. **Talking points** to use for that initial meeting.
3. **Follow-up** information to be provided after your meeting.

NOTE: Depending on how much time you have, you may want to ask two or more people to help you tackle the prep-work activities and have those individual(s) attend the meeting with you. You may find it helpful to share ideas and to divide the following tasks amongst a small group.

Prep-Work

Before meeting with a state legislator or agency lead to discuss the Infrastructure Recommendations:

- Read and print your current state suicide prevention plan (sprc.org/states)
- Visit afsp.org/StateFacts to read and print your current AFSP State Fact Sheet and learn about existing statewide suicide prevention activities and related state laws
- Identify other groups active in the state on suicide prevention (state coalition or commission, nonprofits, county coalitions or task forces), and investigate the questions listed below
 - Do they work collaboratively with the state suicide prevention coordinator or on state-funded programs?
 - Are they currently working together on any initiatives?
 - Are they involved in implementation of the state suicide prevention plan?
- Connect with your **local AFSP chapter** and other potential partners to discuss where each group is best-suited to contribute to carrying out the Infrastructure Recommendations and your state’s suicide prevention plan
- Contact your current state suicide prevention coordinator(s) or other state-level leadership working in suicide prevention (sprc.org/states) to ask the following questions; SPRC’s **Essential Elements Assessment Tool** can help guide this conversation and/or be used in consultation with state suicide prevention leads
 - How much money does my state currently dedicate to suicide prevention?
 - Are there full-time or part-time staff positions dedicated to suicide prevention?
 - How much federal grant money is received for suicide prevention?

Potential Funding Sources/Grant Programs		
SAMHSA	Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal and Campus	Project AWARE
	Zero Suicide	Mental Health Awareness Training
	Adult Suicide Prevention	Community Mental Health Services Block Grants
	988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	Tribal Suicide Prevention
CDC	Comprehensive Suicide Prevention (CSP) Program	
	Tribal Suicide Prevention	
VA	SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program	
CMS	Rural Health Transformation Program	

- What current activities are supported by state and federal funding, and are any in jeopardy of stopping once the grant cycles end?
- How are current suicide prevention activities evaluated?
- What gaps currently exist? (Some examples below)
 - What populations, communities, or environments are currently underserved?
 - What activities or strategies need more support to implement?
 - If more funding was received, what would you prioritize for use of those funds?
- Find out which of your state’s crisis contact centers operate within the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline network, what percentage of calls are answered in-state (see [state reports](#)), and how your state funds 988 crisis response services (monthly telecom fee, state appropriations, grant money, donations, interest earnings, and/or other sources)
- Take what you’ve learned and apply it to the Infrastructure Recommendations using the [State Infrastructure Summary Checklist](#)

Talking Points

Use the talking points below to help guide initial discussions with state legislators or agency leads about the Infrastructure Recommendations:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. My name is **[NAME]**, I currently live in **[CITY]**. **[SHARE ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION IF APPLICABLE]** (For example: I volunteer with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s **[CHAPTER NAME]** Chapter).

I’m involved in suicide prevention because **[SHARE 30-SECOND “ELEVATOR SPEECH” OF WHY YOU’RE INVOLVED]**. I’m here today to discuss the Suicide Prevention Resource Center’s State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations.

The Infrastructure Recommendations were developed based on a review of the research literature and input from national experts and interested parties, including consultation with state suicide prevention leaders.

The Infrastructure Recommendations are designed to help state policy leaders like you assess the status of our current statewide suicide prevention efforts and address any needed improvements. They outline six essential infrastructure areas for advancing our state’s suicide prevention efforts; each area includes activities that demonstrate what our state should be doing at a minimum as well as those activities that can support a more advanced approach.

I’ve done some research and would like to discuss with you what I think our state is doing well and where I think our state could be doing more.

- This is what our state is doing well... **[DESCRIBE WHERE YOUR STATE MEETS THE MINIMUM AND ADVANCED RECOMMENDATIONS]**
- This is where our state could be doing more... **[DESCRIBE WHAT GAPS YOU THINK NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND WHY]**
- This is how my organization can help... **[SHARE WHAT RESOURCES YOUR ORGANIZATION/LOCAL AFSP CHAPTER OFFERS TO HELP CARRY OUT ASPECTS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR THE STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN]**

I'd like to leave some resources with you for your review and reference.

- SPRC State Infrastructure Recommendations [website](#), [summary](#), and [link to full report](#)
- Filled out SPRC [State Infrastructure Summary Checklist](#), if completed
- [AFSP State Fact Sheet](#)
- Link to your state [suicide prevention plan](#)
- Your contact information and information about your [local AFSP chapter](#)

Thank you for your time. I look forward to working with you/your office and hope to meet with you again soon to discuss next steps.

Follow Up

[After your meeting:](#)

- Do your best to find answers to any questions raised that you weren't able to answer and connect your legislator/ agency lead to your local AFSP chapter and the AFSP policy & advocacy team as needed (advocacy@afsp.org)
- Circle back with your state suicide prevention coordinator, local AFSP chapter and AFSP policy & advocacy team to review what was discussed and act on any action items, including making connections with other groups as appropriate
- Schedule a follow-up meeting within 4-6 weeks to discuss next steps