National Suicide Prevention Initiatives

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NASMHPD Annual Meeting

Monday, July 27, 2026

National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

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The Suicide Prevention Resource Center: **Providing National Leadership in Training and Technical Assistance**

July 27, 2026

Jenna Dalley Heise, MA, NBCC
SPRC Executive Director

Funding and Disclaimer

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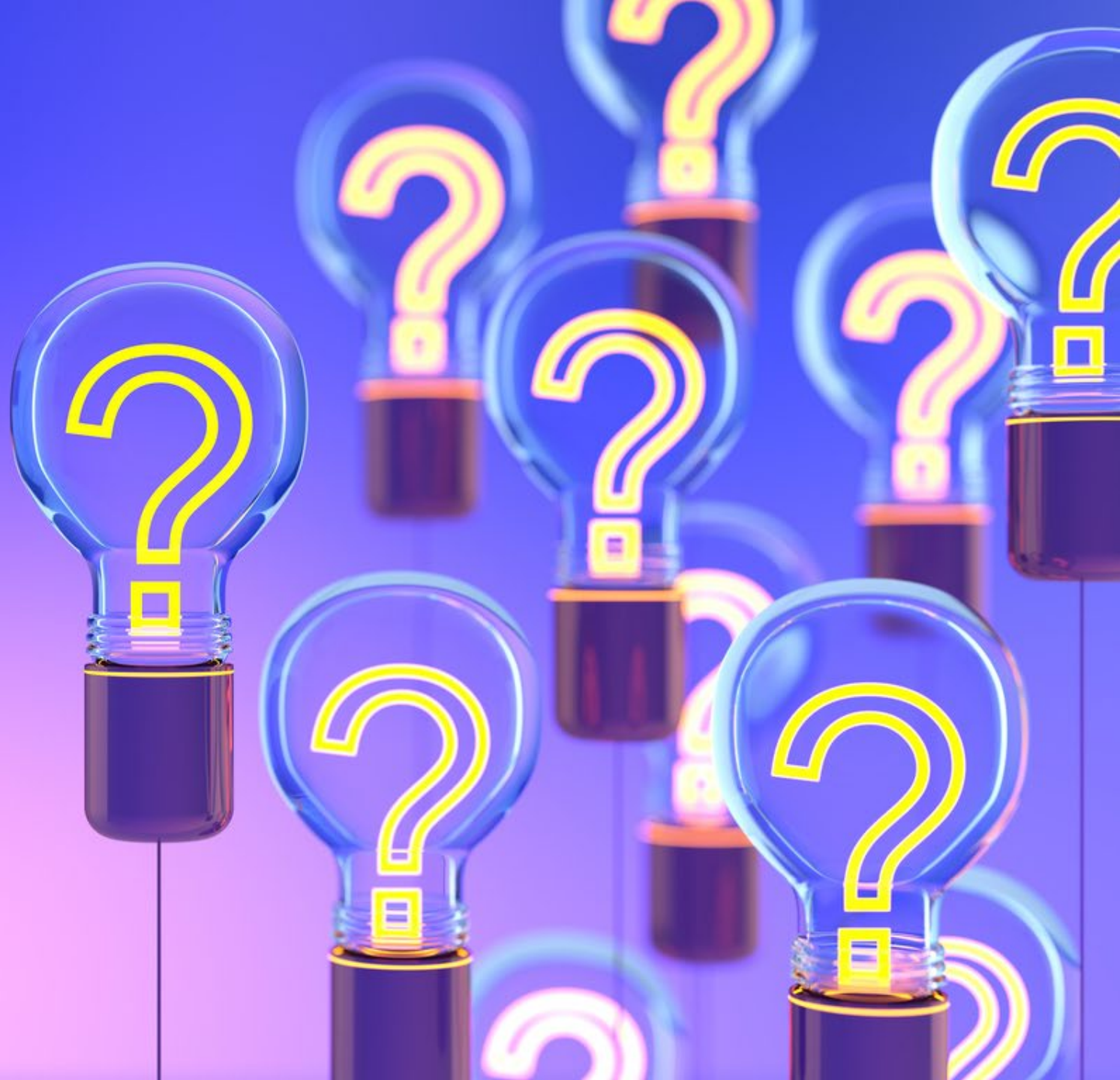
About SPRC

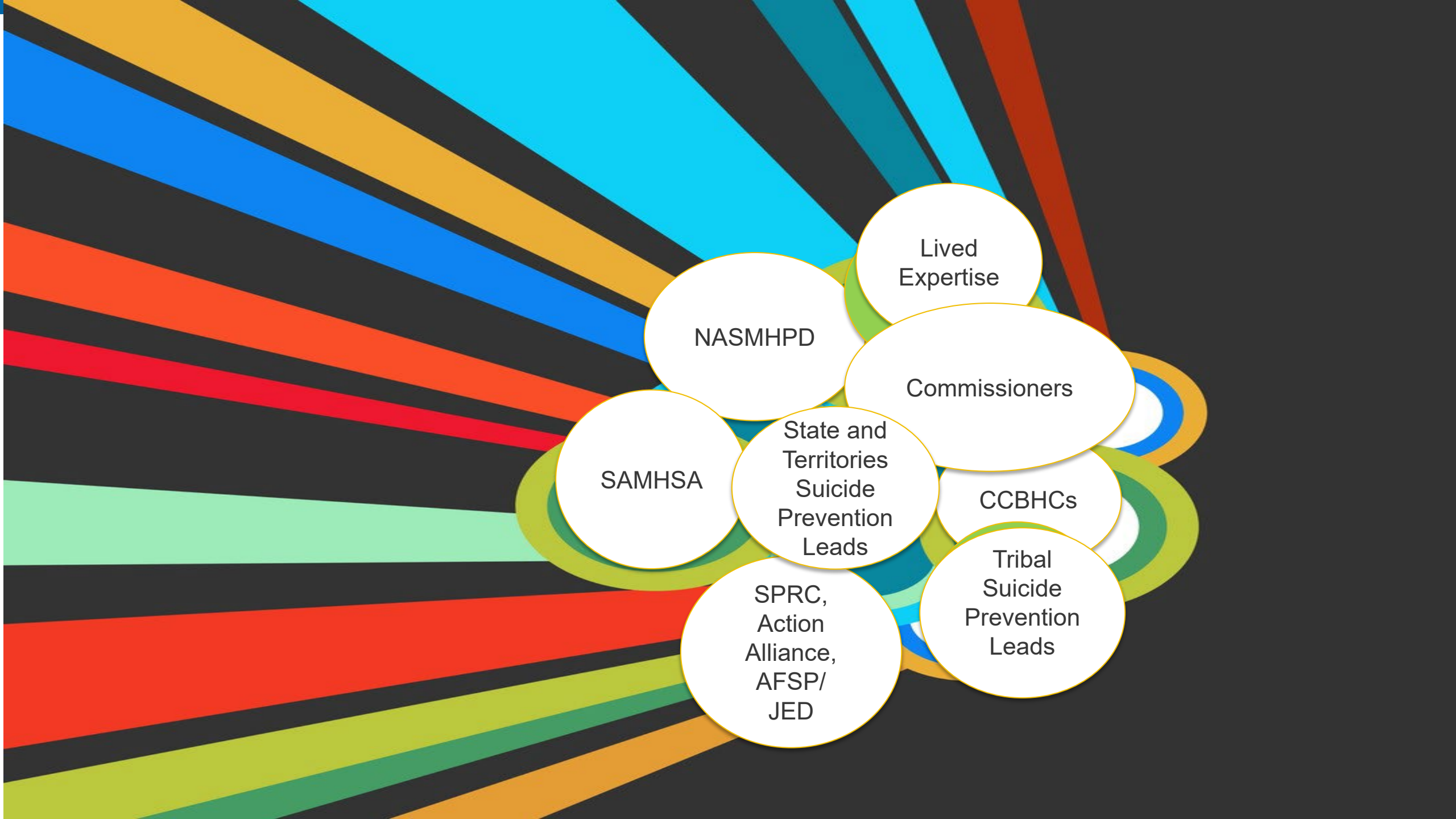
The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) advances effective suicide prevention nationwide through free consultation, training, and tools for community organizations and coalitions; workplaces; state and Tribal leaders; health/behavioral health systems; professionals and professional education programs; and national public and private partners. SPRC is supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Overview

- SPRC Grant
- SPRC Initiatives
- National Leadership
- State Leadership

Who are the Leaders in Suicide Prevention?




Lived Expertise
NASMHPD
Commissioners
SAMHSA
State and Territories Suicide Prevention Leads
CCBHCs
Tribal Suicide Prevention Leads
SPRC, Action Alliance, AFSP/ JED

How do you see the Suicide Prevention Resource Center?

Library

Creating Resources

Policy Guidance

National, State, and Local Guidelines

Best Practices Registry

Webinars and Online Courses

Coaching and Consulting

Distributing Surveys

Our Charge

Provide national leadership to address suicide across the country

Build national capacity for preventing suicide by providing:

Technical Assistance	**Training and Resources**	**Suicide Prevention Strategies**	**Best Practices**

Suicide Prevention Resource Center

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) is your one-stop source for information to help you develop, deliver, and evaluate evidence-informed suicide prevention efforts.

What we offer

- Consultation
- Training
- Tools
- And more!

Who we serve

- Organizations
- Health Systems and Clinicians
- Communities
- States and Tribes

www.sprc.org

@SuicidePrevention ResourceCenter

@suicide-prevention-resource-center

Visit SPRC.org

Sign up for the *Weekly Spark* newsletter for the latest resources from SPRC.

Discover how to develop and implement prevention efforts in any setting with our Effective Suicide Prevention Model.

Explore a library of programs and interventions with evidence of effectiveness.

Learn at your own pace with online courses, learning labs, and brief videos.

Access a wealth of resources, including toolkits, fact sheets, success stories, and more!

Find information on suicide prevention efforts in your state.

Free consultation and training.

2025-2030 Implementation Workplan Goals

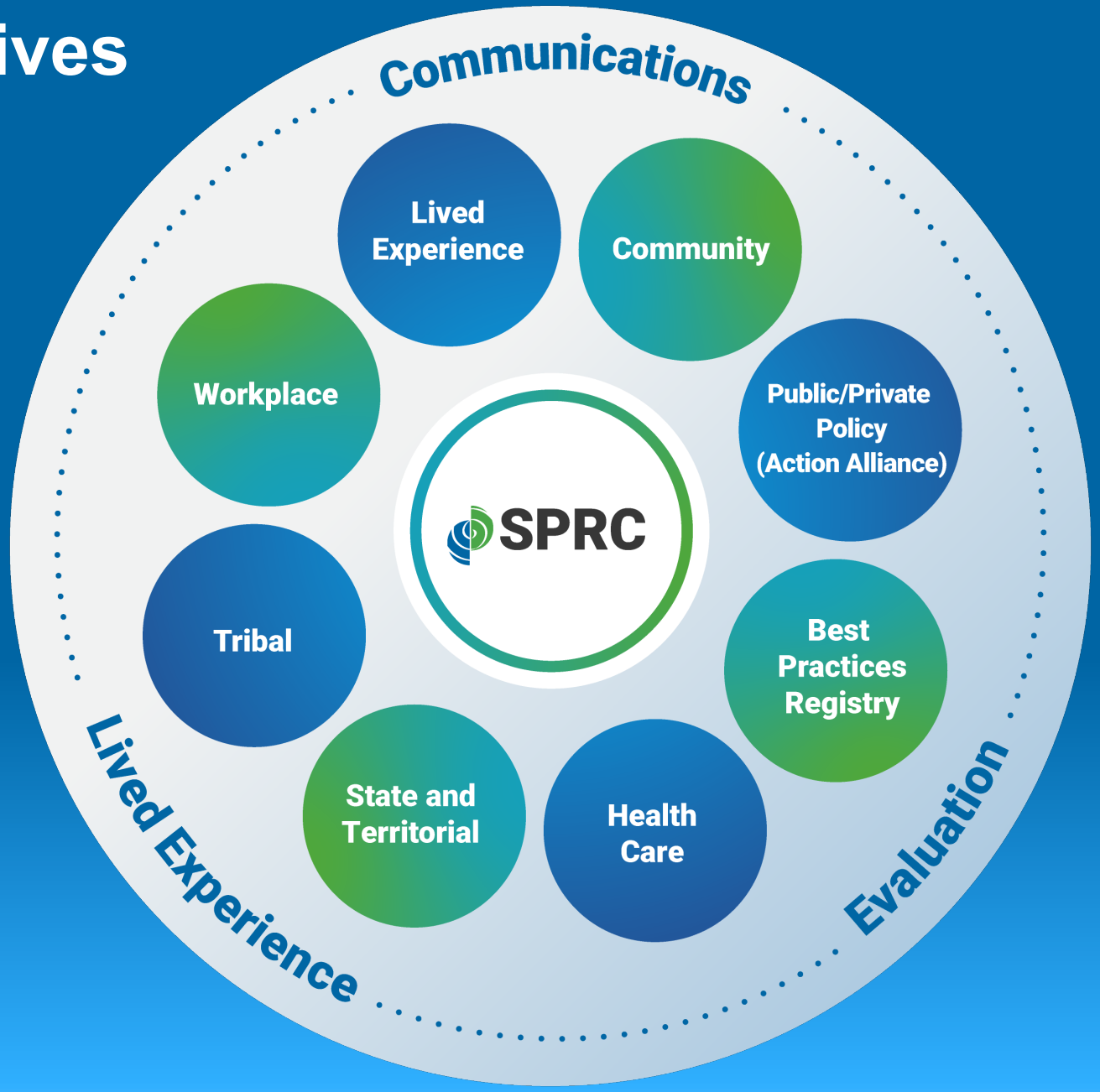
Goal 1: Increase the capacity of state, Tribal, territorial, and community systems, leaders, and organizations to support the implementation of effective suicide prevention strategies.

Goal 2: Strengthen and sustain high-impact national, state, and local partnerships across public and private sectors to build alignment and consensus and advance the field of suicide prevention.

Goal 3: Improve capacity of states, Tribes, health care systems, and providers to effectively screen, assess, intervene, treat, and follow up with those at risk of suicide and use the Zero Suicide Model.

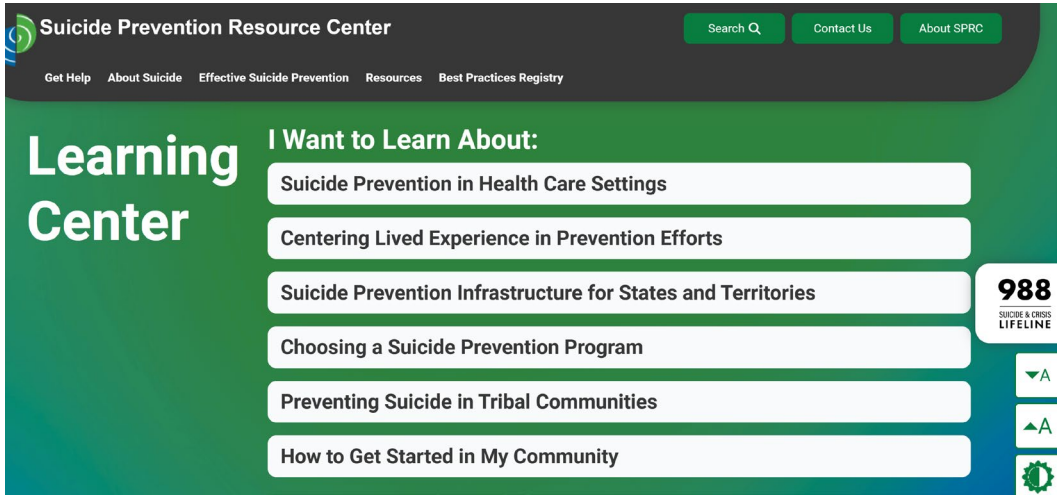
Goal 4: Increase availability of support for those at the highest suicide risk, survivors, and families to improve crisis response, help loved ones get care and increase access to community supports.

SPRC Initiatives

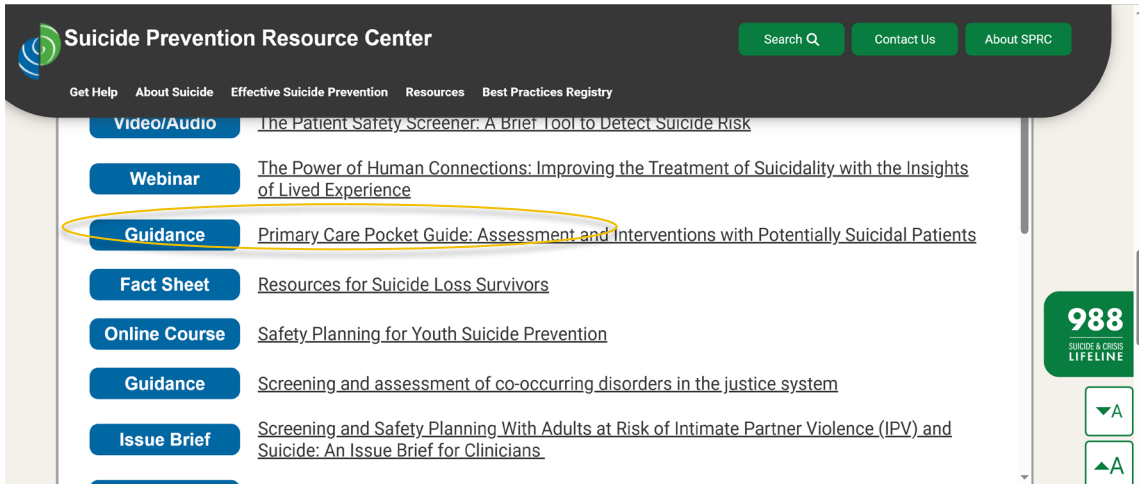


SPRC Resources for National Audiences

SPRC Website: Learning Center



Resources



SPRC Resources for Specific Groups and Focused TTA

Resources for Specific Groups

- Learning collaborative for community coalitions
- Community of practice for primary care providers
- Action Alliance listening session for national experts
- Webinar series on postvention, grief, and healing in Tribal communities

Focused TTA

- Building strategic plans
- Elements of suicide care and Zero Suicide
- Data dashboard health care goals *National Strategy*
- Lived experience in systems

Individualized Technical Assistance

Office Hours

- Lived Experience Initiatives
  - Structured with guest speakers
- Tribal Initiatives
  - Topics
- Best Practices Registry
  - How to apply and evaluation support
- Health Care Initiatives
  - Crisis Care Continuum and Zero Suicide
- State and Territorial Initiatives
  - Quarterly TA calls

Individualized TTA

- Systems
  - Workplace trade unions
  - Suicide-centered lived experience with organizational leadership
  - Community coalitions
- Tribes and Tribal Communities
  - Service members and veterans
- States and Territories
  - Strategic planning with state leaders for statewide rural initiative

SPRC's Technical Expert Panel

- **Technical Expert Panel:** SPRC has organized a strategic advisory body of subject matter expert consultants.
- **Expertise:** Panelists align with SPRC's initiatives and include members of other national suicide prevention organizations and individuals representing populations at high risk for suicide, and people with suicide-centered lived experience.
- **Purpose:** To advise, advance, and amplify SPRC's mission, goals, and strategic direction.

State Suicide Prevention Leadership

- The State and Territorial Initiatives team provides TTA to state and territorial suicide prevention leadership.
- TTA addresses topics such as:
    - Communicating your state and territorial suicide prevention data needs and priorities to community champions and leadership for action
    - Connecting with other states or territories about how they have shared their priorities with leadership and community champions
    - Strategizing ways to frame suicide prevention messages for community champions (including those with lived experience) and policy makers

State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure:

The recommendations articulate essential infrastructure elements for advancing and sustaining suicide prevention efforts

- Developed in collaboration with an advisory panel of experts and key partners
- Tools, success stories, webinars, and more are available to help states implement
- Available at sprc.org/state-infrastructure

State Infrastructure: LEAD

Key

- Maintain a dedicated leadership position
- Dedicate core staff positions, training, and technology needed to carry out all six essential functions
- Develop capacity to respond to information requests from officials, communities, the media, and the general public

To Further Strengthen

- Where interests intersect, establish a formal connection between the relevant government divisions or offices
- Build staff capacity to effectively communicate across multiple audiences and formats
- Develop division/agency commitment to spur cross-discipline collaboration and integrate programs across funding sources

SPRC's 2025 State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Staff Summer Summit

- Four-session virtual learning series for state and territorial suicide prevention leaders
    - Sessions focused on strategic planning, state plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and leadership and community engagement
- 22 states and territories participated
- Created new opportunities for cross-state networking and problem-solving
- **Takeaway**: State suicide prevention leads consistently value opportunities to learn directly from peers facing similar implementation challenges.

State Coordinator Collective Calls: Ongoing Peer Learning and Problem Solving

- Regular quarterly forum connecting suicide prevention coordinators across states and territories; creates a national peer network for rapid exchange of ideas and resources
- May 20th session focused on strengthening postvention efforts
- 20+ states and territories represented
- States shared practical approaches to school response, surveillance, media engagement, and community support
- **Takeaway**: Strengthens state suicide prevention efforts by connecting suicide prevention leaders to peers, practical solutions, and real-world implementation experience.

SPRC Year 2 Suicide Prevention for States and Territories

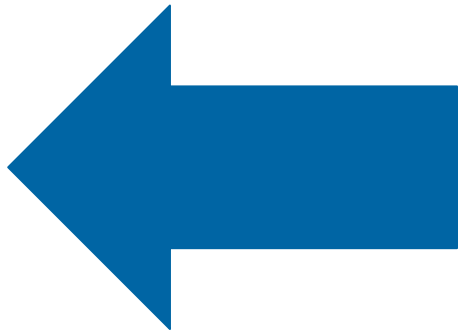
- Currently developing an online course for state and territorial suicide prevention leads
- Goal: Equip state and territorial suicide prevention professionals with the key skills needed to effectively carry out their work and knowledge of how those skills support the development of a comprehensive strategic plan.
- Objectives:
    - Describe and differentiate the components of a comprehensive suicide prevention approach by accurately defining each component and explaining its purpose and application.
    - Explain how five key skill domains: Public Health, Data-informed Decision Making, Selecting and Implementing Evidence-Informed Strategies; Partnership and Collaboration, Continuous Quality Improvement, and Sustainability support the implementation of the components of a comprehensive suicide prevention approach.

Upcoming – SPRC Year 2

- Free, self-paced Zero Suicide resources
- Online course on safe and effective suicide prevention messaging
- Early intervention and prevention toolkit for a specific high-risk group or setting – planned focus is school settings
- Convene suicide prevention researchers and prevention program developers for an intensive research to practice summit to identify and disseminate new suicide prevention research findings and inform prevention and intervention program design
- Webinar series, resources, and tools that provide guidance on best practices, effective self-care, and support strategies after a suicide attempt for a different audience or setting each year

NASMHPD Commissioners: Next Steps to Elevate Suicide Prevention in Your State

- **Participate** in regularly scheduled NASMHPD regional calls with guest speakers, including SPRC's State and Territorial Initiatives.
- **Learn** about the LEAD essential element from SPRC's *Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure.*
- **Attend** the suicide prevention leads quarterly forum that connects suicide prevention coordinators across states and territories.
- **Join** the NASMHPD September Meet Me Webinar featuring Scott Barton, SPRC's Director of Tribal Initiatives, to learn about suicide prevention in Tribal communities in your state or territory.



Questions?

Resources

Suicide Prevention in Health Care Settings:
https://sprc.org/health-care/

Preventing Suicide in Tribal Communities:
https://sprc.org/tribal-resources

Centering Lived Experience in Prevention Efforts:
https://sprc.org/livedexperience/

How to Get Started in My Community:
https://sprc.org/community-suicide-prevention/

Suicide Prevention Infrastructure for States and Territories:
https://sprc.org/state-infrastructure

Choosing a Suicide Prevention Program:
https://bpr.sprc.org

Thank you!

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SAMHSA Zero Suicide Evaluation

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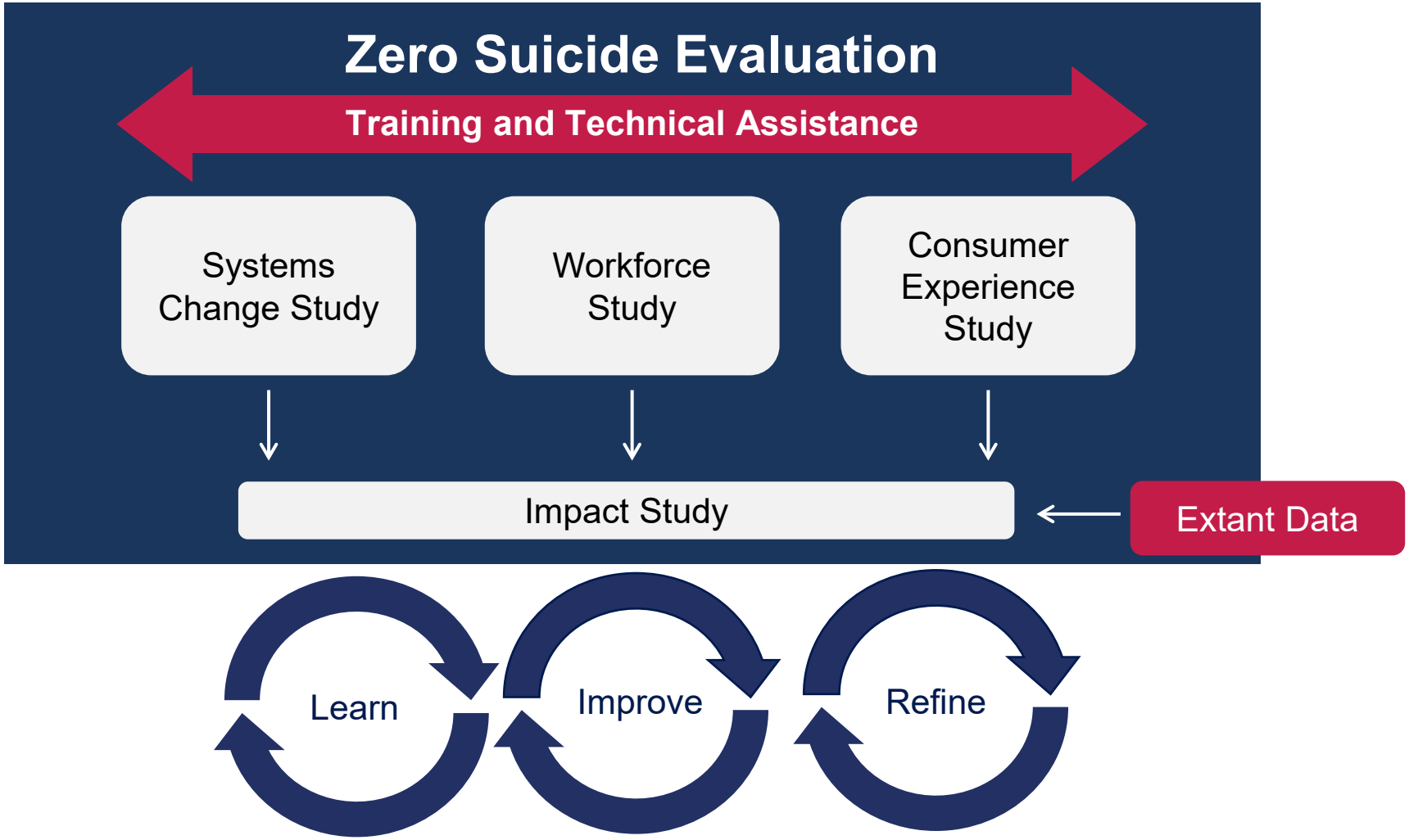
Evaluation Design

Overview of Zero Suicide Evaluation Design

The purpose of this evaluation is to support SAMHSA in assessing Zero Suicide Program implementation, outcomes, and impact; support continuous quality improvement; and guide program development.



Evaluation Questions

Four Overarching Questions

Systems Change Study

To what extent are grantees implementing the Zero Suicide Program in accordance with the Zero Suicide Framework, adoption of core activities, and indicators of sustainable systems change?

Workforce Study

What are the outcomes of the organization-wide workforce training programs to enhance suicide intervention skills, and how do providers describe their experience throughout this change?

Consumer Experience Study

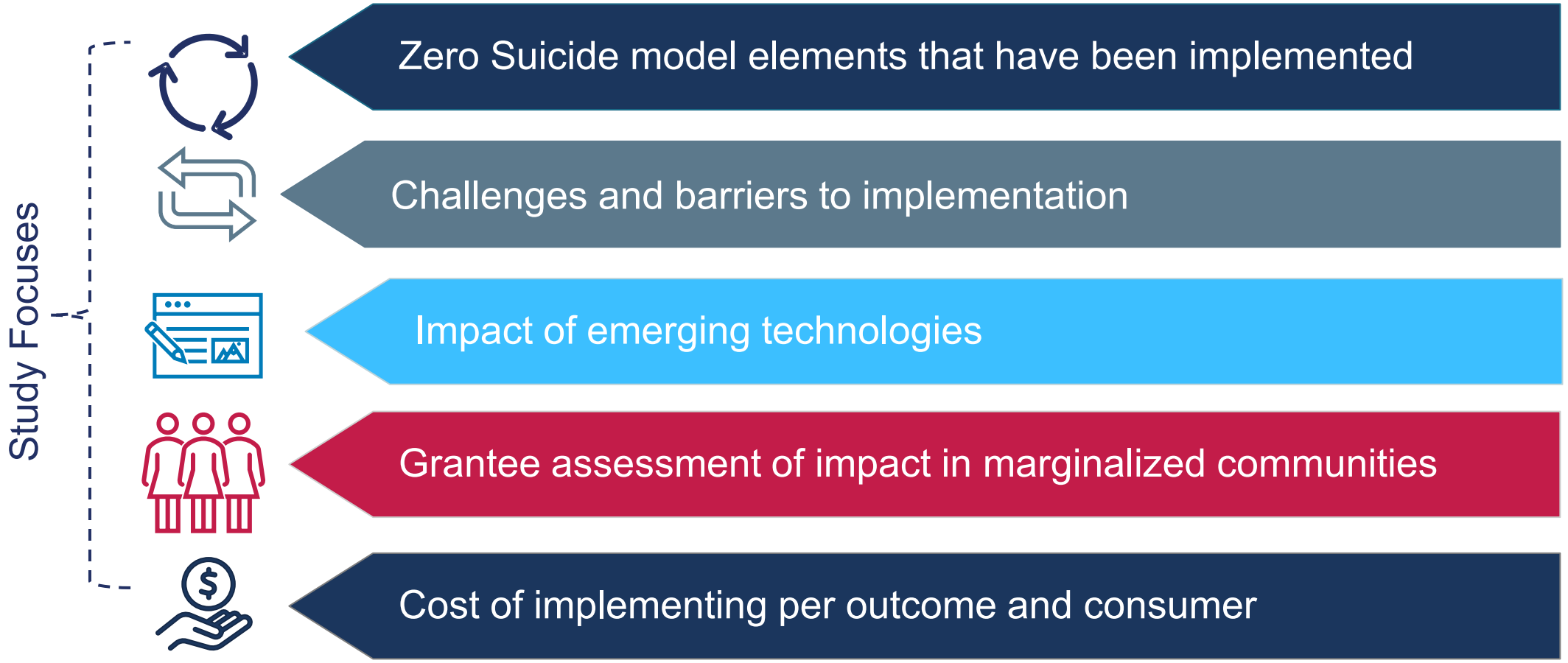
How do Zero Suicide Program consumers perceive their care and services, and do their clinical outcomes improve over time?

Impact Study

What is the overall impact of the Zero Suicide Program on reducing suicide rates in terms of morbidity and mortality?

Systems Change Study

Overview



Systems Change Study

Data Collection Instruments

The Systems Change Study data will utilize a combination of primary data collection via **two surveys, two case studies, and secondary data** to understand implementation of the Zero Suicide framework in Health Systems, including the core activities accomplished and indicators of sustainable systems change.

Prevention Strategies Inventory (PSI)

Behavioral Health Provider Survey (BHPS)

Case and Cost Study
Key Informant Interviews

Workforce Study

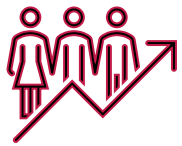
Overview

Study Goals

Staff preparedness to address suicide rick among their consumers

Staff awareness of suicide prevention protocols and care management plans

Staff awareness of Zero Suicide activities. Staff feel supported and confident



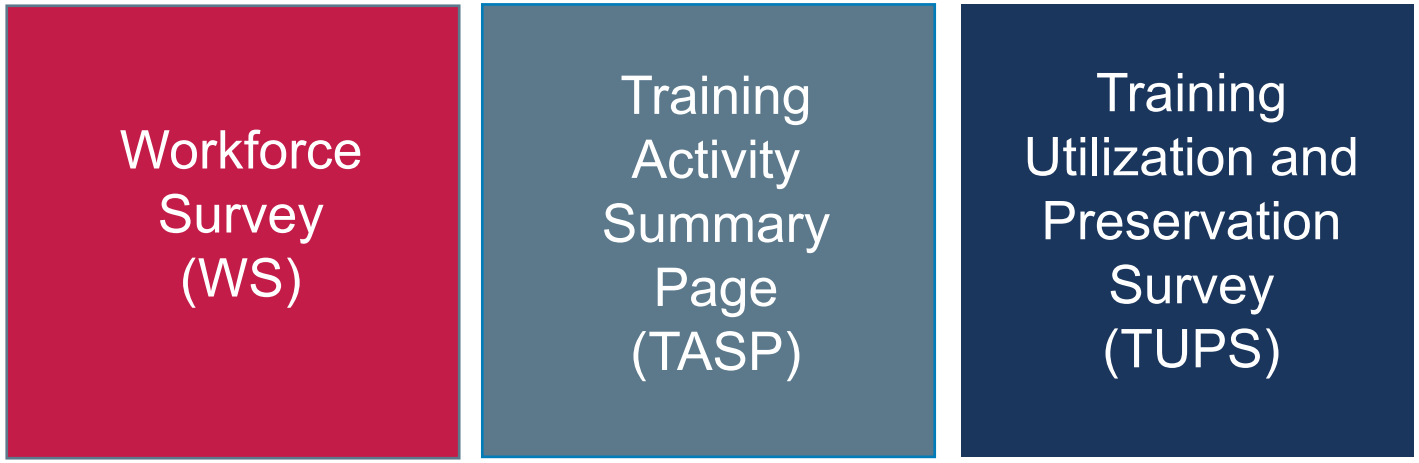
Differences in provider experiences by setting, role as a provider, education or background of provider, & demographic factors

Knowledge, confidence, and demonstrable skills in addressing suicide among trained staff

Workforce Study

Data Collection Instruments

The Workforce Study will utilize primary data collection via **three different surveys** to understand how training materials are used, how they help increase knowledge, skills, and confidence among the behavioral health workforce, and how effective they are in sustaining the benefits over time.



Consumer Experience Study

Overview

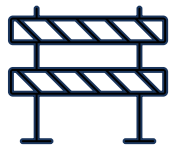
Study Focuses

How effectively services reduce suicide risk and promote recovery

How satisfied consumers are with the services they've received

Who benefits most from services (and who might need extra support)

How often clinicians are implementing Zero Suicide practices



Any common barriers to service engagement

Consumer Experience Study

Data Collection Instruments

The Consumer Experience Study data will utilize primary data collection to understand the experiences and behavioral health outcomes of consumers as they navigate their pathway to and through care within Zero Suicide organizations.

Impact Study

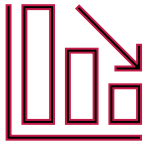
Overview

Study Goals

Achievement of goal to reduce suicide and suicidal ideation

Impact on individuals in grant services area

Impact on suicidal behavior of individuals receiving treatment

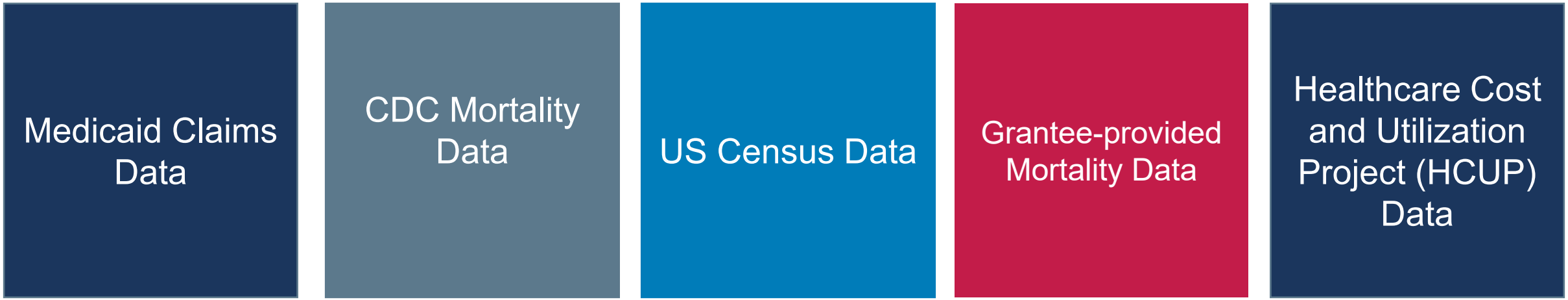


Influence of the model on outcomes

Variation of impacts across different groups

Impact Study

Impact study relies on secondary data sources.



Input from Expert & Evaluator Panels and Grantees

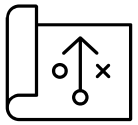
Grantee Evaluators

Two virtual sessions held in March of 2024.

- On March 5 with 47 grantee attendees.
- On March 6 with 21 grantee attendees.

Focus: Review of the overall evaluation design.

Requesting data and communicating with health care organizations, recruiting participants, barriers to data collection.



Expert Advisory Panel (Consultants)

One virtual session with a panel of experts held on March 13, 2024.

- Seven experts participated in the session.
- Additional written feedback also received from one participant.

Focus: Review of the overall evaluation design.

Different organizational structures, engagement and retention in longitudinal studies, methodological approaches for analysis.

Grantee Meeting

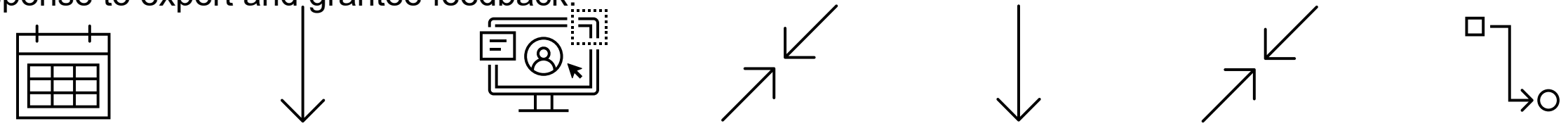
Evaluation team held a round table session on June 6, 2024, during the SAMHSA Zero Suicide/National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Grantee Meeting.

Focus: IRB, Staff buy-in, Connecting with Consumers, Barriers and facilitators to participation.

Input from Grantee Evaluators, Expert Advisory Panel, and Grantees at Zero Suicide Grantee Meeting

Implementation of Feedback

The Evaluation Team implemented the following changes to the Evaluation and Data Collection Plan in response to expert and grantee feedback.



Increased the Consumer Study Interest Form administration window.	Decreased the number of Consumer Experience Survey administrations.	Added consumer interviews.	Aligned the Behavioral Health Provider Survey with Organizational Self-Study.	Decreased the administrations of the Workforce Survey.	Aligned Workforce Survey with ZS Institute Workforce Survey.	Changed Training Utilization and Preservation Survey baseline to pre-training rather than post-training.

Integration of Grantee Reporting Data

Grantee reporting day will supplement primary data collected via the evaluation

SAMHSA's Performance Accountability and Reporting System (SPARS)

Performance data obtained through SPARS will provide an additional means of highlighting some areas of focus, including access to mental health services, referral, screening, and training services.

- Accountability
- Access
- Referral
- Screening
- Types/Targets of Practices
- Training Workforce Development

Programmatic Progress Reports (PPR)

The evaluation removed some indicators from our instruments and will utilize PPR data. The evaluation team worked with SAMHSA to have the following added to the PPR.

- Clients served with group treatment
- Individuals received follow up after an ED or inpatient discharge
- Profile and Outcomes of Individuals (for inpatient/outpatient)
- Follow-up after discharge
- Screened and assessed positive for suicide risk
- Under organization's care a care management plan who experienced an episode of acute care
- Episode of acute care

EDC.ORG | Zero Suicide Institute

Zero Suicide

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Director, Zero Suicide Institute at EDC

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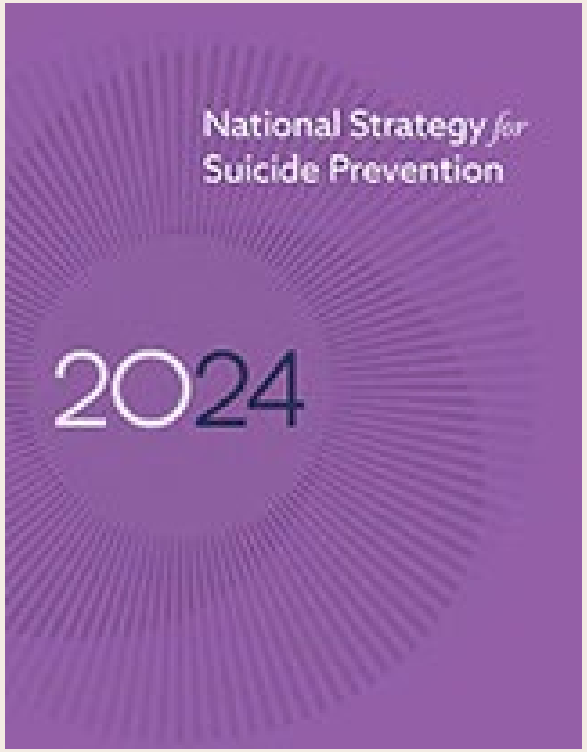
National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

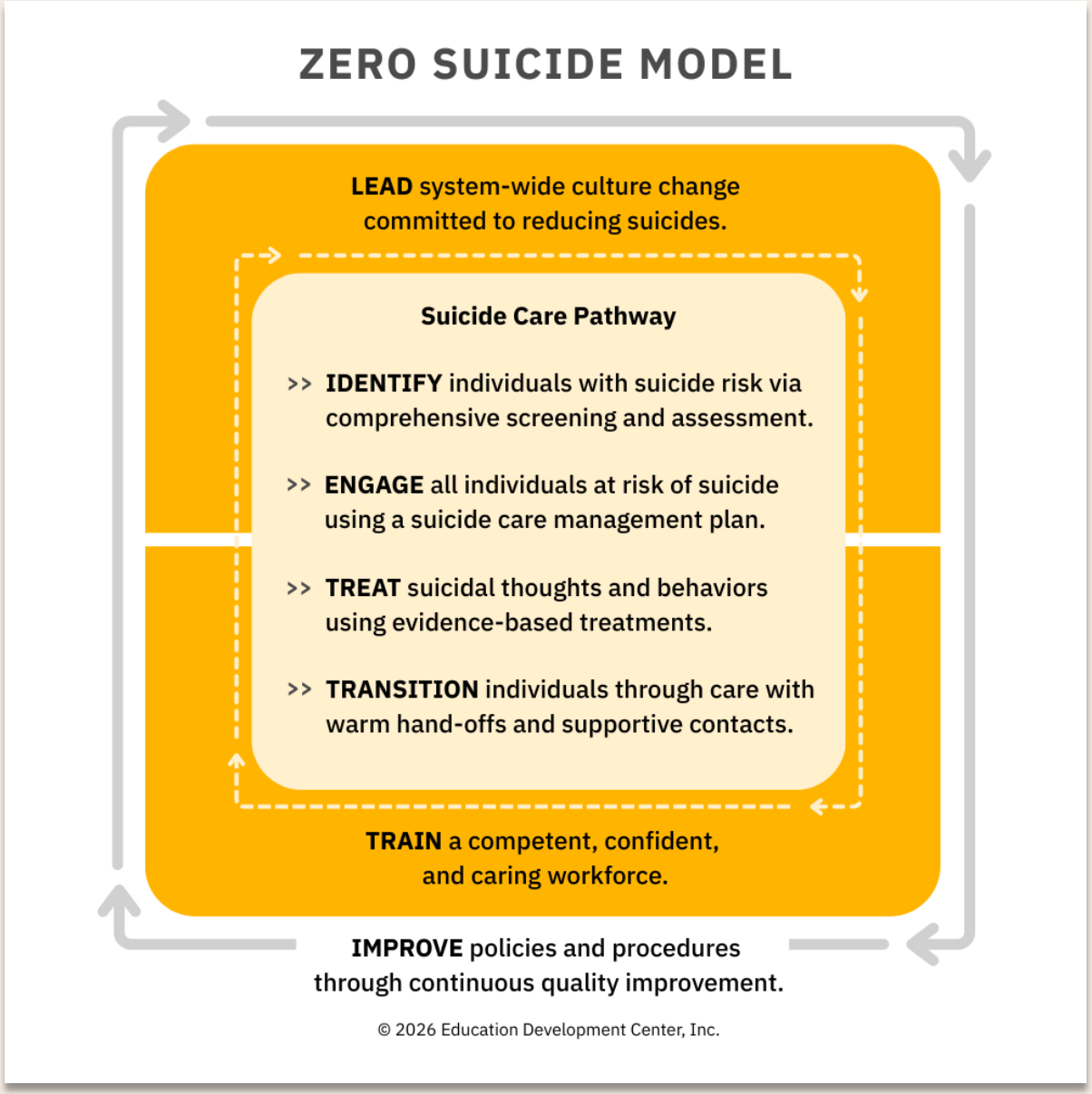
Goal 8: Implement effective suicide prevention services as a core component of health care



https://theactionalliance.org/national-strategy-suicide-prevention

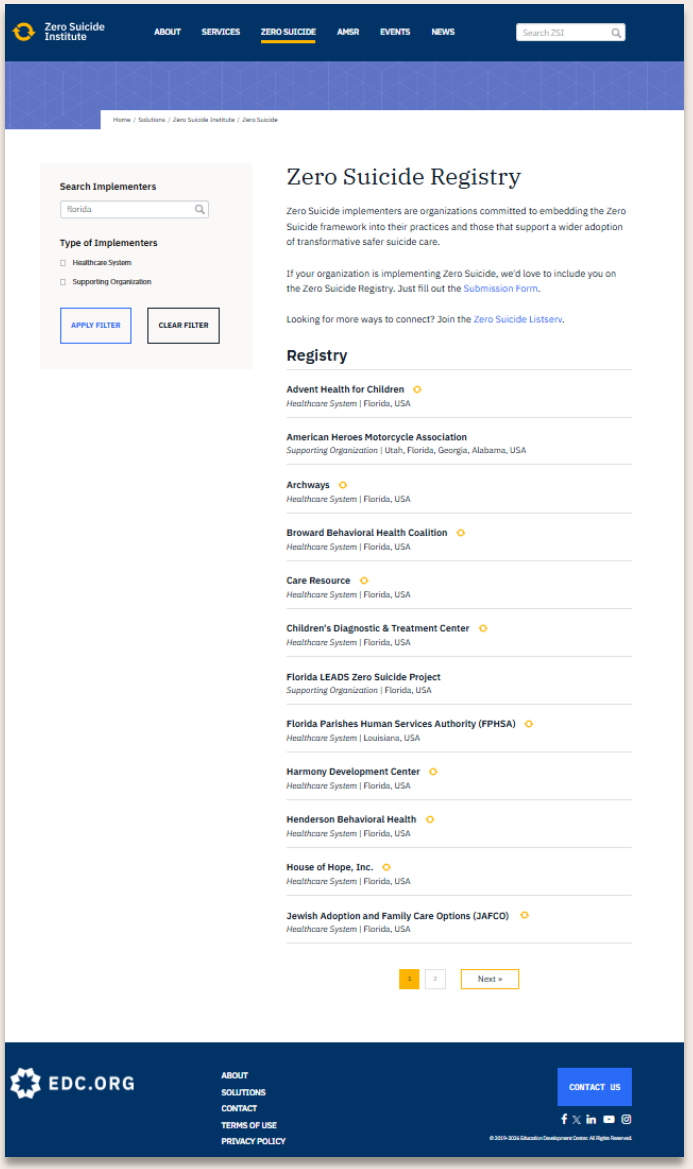
Zero Suicide

Zero Suicide is a system-wide approach to improving suicide care in health and behavioral health settings, helping organizations implement evidence-based practices that save lives.



Zero Suicide in the U.S.

- Over 2,000 healthcare systems have adopted Zero Suicide to date
- Evidence for adoption of Zero Suicide exists
- Healthcare systems remain unaware of the framework



Four Pines Fund

- Founded by family who lost son, Alan, to suicide in 2015
- Informed by background as physicians and lived experience
- Fund projects & partnerships that expand access to suicide care

fourpines.org

Four Pines Project at EDC

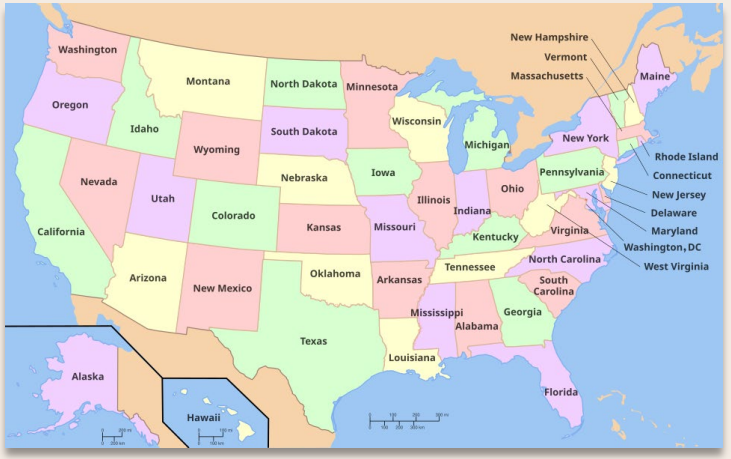
3-year project designed to increase adoption of Zero Suicide with fidelity

- Update implementation tools and website
- Evaluate impact of EDC's Zero Suicide Academy & Community of Practice
- Provide comprehensive TTA services across outpatient care
  - ✓ CCBHCs/CMHCs
  - ✓ Integrated primary care
  - ✓ Crisis respite services
- Identify opportunities for states to support Zero Suicide

Coming Soon: Identify States

Assist with identifying states best prepared to lead adoption of the Zero Suicide Principles—determinations will be based on each state's:

- Commissioner leadership commitment
- Behavioral health service system capacity
- Zero Suicide strategies currently included in state suicide prevention plans
- Prior participation in similar suicide prevention initiatives



Additional Tasks

- Conduct a needs assessment
- Support SMHAs to pilot at least one new strategy to modify or invest in: policy, technology, data, funding opportunities during the 3-year project
- Develop tailored resources for SMHA leadership
- Assess pilot SMHA’s progress and saturation of statewide Zero Suicide implementation
- Share lessons learned

Anticipated Outcomes

Tools and resources for adoption are strengthened

States reduce barriers/improve opportunities for adoption and sustainability

Enhanced fidelity of care practices in systems using Zero Suicide

Demonstrated outcomes

Articulation of value proposition

Greater uptake of Zero Suicide

Stronger, more resilient health and behavioral health systems

Improved care quality and safety for individuals at risk

Thank You!

988 Updates

Progress and Future Directions

Lula Haile | Vibrant Emotional Health
Wendy Martinez Farmer | Vibrant Emotional Health

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July 27, 2026