

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE 12 SECTORS TOOLKIT



The 12 Sectors

Coalitions of all sorts are made up of different partners (sectors) across a community. It is important that coalitions have representation from all sectors to ensure that as many populations are represented as possible. In coalition work, the twelve sectors recommended for effective community engagement include healthcare professionals, businesses, schools, youth, civic/volunteers, religious or fraternal organizations, government (state, local & tribal), law enforcement, parents, media, youth-serving organizations, and other organizations involved in prevention efforts.

Suicide Prevention *within* the 12 sectors

Many believe that suicide prevention is solely the business of mental health professionals; however, preventing suicide requires many players - it is everyone's business. Suicide is the most preventable kind of death and highlighting specific tasks and resources for each sector helps to ensure that suicide prevention is a focus. This toolkit was designed to support coalitions (including all sectors) in engaging in suicide prevention activities and provides a robust library of resources.

The Role of Cultural Competence in Prevention

In order for strategies to be appropriate and effective, a coalition needs to take into account varying attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Consider cultural variables in all aspects of assessment, project planning, and implementation. Diversity involves more than just race; socioeconomic, education levels, generational attitudes and beliefs, and geographic features are all things to consider when thinking about cultural competence. Eliminating disparities help to improve the effectiveness and quality of programs, policies, and evidence-based strategies.

DCCCA SPF Overview Toolkit <https://ispri.ng/Zm2mK>

CLICK ON ANY SECTOR TO NAVIGATE DIRECTLY TO THE SECTOR PAGE



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Physicians, Nurses, Mental Health Practitioners, Dentists, Physical and Behavioral Therapists, Public Health Practitioners, Dietitians



BUSINESSES

Retailers, Services, Utilities, Financial, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Real Estate



SCHOOLS

Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Principals, PTO members, Resource Officers, School Nurses, Coaches



YOUTH

Youth are young persons up to 18 years old



CIVIC/VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are individuals working to make a difference in the community.



RELIGIOUS OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Churches, Temples, Synagogues, Chapels, Mosques, College Fraternities and Sororities, Knights of Columbus, Shriners



STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Mayors, City or County Commissioners, State Representatives, Senators, Tribal Chieftains



LAW ENFORCEMENT

State and Local Police, Sheriffs, Court Systems, Corrections, Military Police



PARENTS

Biological Parents, Adopted Parents, Step Parents, Grandparents and other adults that provide guidance and physical and emotional support, are all part of this sector.



MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS

Television, Radio, Printed Materials, Social Media, Internet Information, Advertising



YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl or Boy Scouts, YMCAs, YWCAs, 4-H, PTAS



OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN PREVENTION EFFORTS

Within your community there are likely other sectors that could provide support and assist the coalition in carrying out the mission. On the next page we have listed a few other important sectors that can bring valuable insight and perspective to the table.



HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

OVERVIEW

This sector is made up of physicians, nurses, mental health practitioners, dentists, physical and behavioral therapists, public health practitioners, and dietitians.

Healthcare systems are multifaceted, so we want to ensure that we are thinking about the system as a larger, more comprehensive system (i.e., primary care practices, hospitals, emergency departments, behavioral health care, substance misuse facilities, etc.). With the vast reach of healthcare systems in a variety of settings, there are a multitude of opportunities to engage persons at risk for suicide.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Within a month of dying by suicide, 45% of people had contact with their primary care provider, and 19% had contact with a mental health provider. Healthcare settings can significantly improve suicide care by implementing system-wide changes by working to shift the culture towards reducing suicide, training staff to ensure competence, identification of at-risk patients through screening and assessment, engaging at-risk individuals in a suicide care management plan, specifically treating suicidal thoughts and behaviors, transitioning clients through care using warm hand-offs and supportive contacts, and using data for quality improvement (Education Development Center).

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- [Zero Suicide](#) Implementation: Zero Suicide is a framework that, when applied, improves suicide care within healthcare and behavioral healthcare systems. *“The foundational belief of Zero Suicide is that suicide deaths for individuals under the care of health and behavioral health systems are preventable. For systems dedicated to improving patient safety, Zero Suicide presents an aspirational challenge and practical framework for system-wide transformation toward safer suicide care.”* (Education Development Center)
 - o As part of the Zero Suicide framework, all departments across an organization receive training as it relates to their job position. For example, receptionists are in a unique position because they very likely might be the first people to interact with a new patient, and it could be beneficial for them to be trained as gatekeepers.
- Require all entry-level staff to be trained as gatekeepers so they can learn to recognize warning signs for suicide or mental health distress:
 - o [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - o [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - o [Mental Health First Aid](#)
- Require clinical staff be trained in Suicide Screening and Assessment
 - o [Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale](#)
 - o [Patient Health Questionnaire \(PHQ-9\)](#)
 - o [Ask Suicide-Screening Questions \(ASQ\)](#)
- Utilize collaborative safety planning for brief intervention
 - o [Stanley & Brown Safety planning template](#)

MORE RESOURCES

[Zero Suicide Evidence-Based Research](#)

[Zero Suicide Toolkit](#)



BUSINESSES

OVERVIEW

This sector includes retailers, services, utilities, financial, manufacturing, agriculture, and real estate. People who work to make and sell products or services are in business. A business can be a large organization, a sole proprietorship, or any size in between.

Having the business sector involved in prevention coalitions is important because businesses are built into the fabric of our communities. Those in the business sector will likely come in contact with someone who is at risk for suicide. Employees need to have tools to rely on to support someone who is thinking about suicide - colleagues and customers alike. When thinking about this sector, we must think about them in two ways: as organizations that serve the community and employers/employees.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Gatekeeper training
Offer education (gatekeeper) to staff who are in a position to be “unexpected helpers”; some businesses in the community may inherently interact with people who are at a higher risk for suicide because of the nature of their business. For example, it is well documented that there is a strong correlation between alcohol use and suicide. Alcohol serving establishments could be good partners for suicide prevention work within coalitions in a number of ways, including training their staff to be suicide prevention gatekeepers. Some examples of gatekeeper trainings are listed below:
 - [Question, Persuade Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#)
 - [ASIST Suicide Prevention Training Program](#)
 - [Working Minds: Suicide Prevention in the Workplace](#)
- Support and encourage mental wellness
(Employee Assistance Program referrals, work-life balance, etc.)
- Ensure that the workplace has a written procedure for responding to a staff or customer suicide death.
 - [A Manager’s Guide to Suicide Postvention in the Workplace: 10 Action Steps for Dealing with the Aftermath of Suicide](#)
- Participate in awareness campaigns to reach a broader audience
 - Example:
<https://www.notalonevc.org/bartenders-as-gatekeepers/>

MORE RESOURCES

[People in Particular Occupations](#)

[The Role of Managers in Preventing Suicide](#)

[The Role of Co-Workers in Preventing Suicide in the Workplace](#)

[Partnership for Workplace Mental Health](#)

[Comprehensive Blueprint for Workplace Suicide Prevention](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Workers are an employer’s most valuable asset. Creating a culture of health and safety is both humane and good for business. When employees feel supported and encouraged to care for their well-being, it can help to enhance workforce culture and productivity.



OVERVIEW

This sector includes teachers, guidance counselors, principals, PTO members, resource officers, school nurses, coaches, and administrators.

Schools can provide input on programs and activities that are implemented to address suicide and other risky behaviors. Schools must utilize a [comprehensive approach](#) to suicide prevention, which requires a combination of efforts that work together to address different aspects of the problem. Schools are situated in a unique position to help prevent suicide because students spend most of their time at school when it is in session. School staff should also receive support and encouragement around mental wellness and suicide prevention in that same vein.



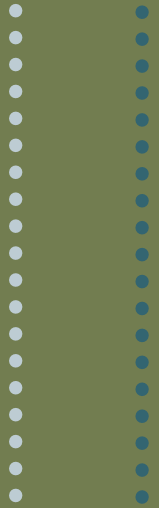
POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Encourage all staff to understand their part in supporting students who are at risk of suicide - not just the school's mental health team.

- In select states, Kansas being one of them, the Jason Flatt Act requires that school personnel receive at least one hour of suicide prevention training per calendar year. Additionally, the Act requires that there be a building crisis plan developed for each building. The crisis plan should include steps for recognizing suicide ideation, appropriate methods of intervention, and a crisis recovery plan. For more information on the Jason Flatt Act, follow this link: <https://jasonfoundation.com/about-us/jason-flatt-act/kansas/>
- Gatekeeper trainings
 - [Question, Persuade Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#)
 - [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
- While all staff must be able to assist in supporting at-risk youth, it is more likely that a mental health professional will be conducting a screening or assessment to better understand the level of risk that the individual may be experiencing. The mental health provider will likely contact the family and make referrals for ongoing care.
 - [Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale](#) (Screening & Assessment)
- Build youth engagement through upstream programming and building suicide protective factors
 - [Sources of Strength](#)
 - [Signs of Suicide](#)
 - [Yellow Ribbon](#)
 - [Good Behavior Game](#)
 - [Erika's Lighthouse](#)
- Run awareness campaigns that promote healthy [help-seeking behavior](#) or that promote the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

- Ensure that the school has a [written policy](#) for responding should a student or staff member die by suicide.
- Gather data using the [Kansas Communities that Care \(KCTC\) survey](#)
 - KCTC student survey is administered to districts at no cost. The survey is used to track teen use of harmful substances (tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs), provides a baseline for teen participation, perception, and attitudes toward both pro-social and anti-social behavior at a peer, school, and family level. The goal for tracking this information is to develop a focus for planning, establish a baseline to track progress and conduct public relations and outreach.
Note: There are modules that districts may opt into to understand better depression and suicide, family domain, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- Explore staff support through the U.S. Department of [Education's Employee Assistance Program](#)



MORE RESOURCES

[Kansas State Department of Education: Suicide Awareness and Prevention Toolkit](#)

[Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools](#)

[Best Practices and Recommendations on Reporting on Suicide](#)

Book: [Suicide in Schools: A Practitioner's Guide to Multi-level Prevention, Assessment, Intervention, and Postvention](#)

[Model School District Policy on Suicide Prevention](#)

[Adolescent Connectedness as a Protective Factor](#)



TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

A suicide death can affect the entire school community in a number of ways. Maintaining a safe school environment is part of a school's overall mission - this includes suicide safety. When a student is struggling with their mental health, it can significantly impact their performance in academics and other school activities. Promoting emotional well-being and connectedness among students can increase positive school culture and can promote healthy help-seeking behaviors.



YOUTH

OVERVIEW

This sector includes all people under the age of eighteen.

Having youth representation in coalition work is important for a number of reasons. Youth can offer creative perspective and give voice to the needs of younger populations. Much of coalition work is youth-focused, and to better understand the needs of this age group, the perspective of young people should be included and considered when creating projects, campaigns, and changes.

RESOURCES

[LGBTQ+ Cultural Competence Toolkit](#)

[Teen Mental Health Toolkit](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Engaging youth in coalition work can support widespread efforts, not only related to suicide prevention but also substance misuse, bullying, dating violence, eating disorders, and other risky behaviors. Having the youth perspective is important for the overall well-being of a community.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Engage youth in gatekeeper training so they can identify risk in their peers and in themselves:
 - [Teen Mental Health First Aid](#)
 - [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#)
- Encourage youth involved in youth groups or youth coalitions to implement an upstream prevention program that focuses on building protective factors:
 - [Sources of Strength](#)
 - [Signs of Suicide](#)
 - [Yellow Ribbon](#)
 - [Erika's Lighthouse](#)
- Run awareness campaigns that promote [healthy help-seeking behavior](#) or that promote the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)



CIVIC/VOLUNTEERS

OVERVIEW

This sector includes individuals working to make a difference in their community via volunteering to work with vulnerable populations, national service, and service-learning projects.

Organizations that offer civic opportunities have a responsibility to prepare their volunteers for the work they will be doing. Suppose the organization provides services or support to vulnerable people. In that case, it could be beneficial to equip them with some basic skills or tools to navigate a suicide or mental health crisis. Additionally, individuals who are not professionally or formally involved in a coalition may take on a volunteer role. This role is likely filled by someone who has a passion for suicide prevention or [lived experience](#).

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Include gatekeeper training as an onboarding opportunity:
 - [Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Mental Health First Aid](#)
- Design a widespread campaign to promote the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) along with promotion of asking for help.
- Provide resources (brochures, NSPL wallet cards, posters, etc.) at community events. For example, craft fairs, art shows, 5K, half marathon or marathon, sporting events, block parties, etc.
- Host fundraising events for the community suicide prevention coalition or local suicide prevention organizations.
- Participate in awareness campaigns that promote mental wellness or suicide prevention.
 - [Suicide Awareness Voices of Education](#)
 - [#Be The 1 To: Be the one to Help Save a Life](#)
 - [Take 5 to Save Lives](#)
 - [Promote National Suicide Prevention Month](#)

MORE RESOURCES

[Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) for Volunteers and Students](#)

[Engaging People with Lived Experience](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center - Resources and Programs](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Whether or not an individual is involved in coalition work in a professional or volunteer capacity, suicide prevention is everybody's business. Therefore, engaging in suicide prevention efforts through coalition work can make a huge difference in communities. Coalitions are made up of many different players, and it takes all players to make a change.



RELIGIOUS OR FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

OVERVIEW

This sector includes churches, temples, synagogues, chapels, mosques, college fraternities, sororities, Knights of Columbus, and Shriner's.

Faith communities can provide tremendous support for people experiencing several difficulties in life - this includes suicide. There is a natural opportunity in faith communities to bolster protective factors, such as community connectedness, support through difficult times, being an outlet for stress, and spending time in service for others.

MORE RESOURCES

[Immediate and Long-Term Postvention](#) (support after a suicide death)

[Social Connectedness and Support](#)

[Promoting Connectedness to Prevent Suicide](#) webinar

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Members of faith communities often receive a significant amount of support from their congregations, and in some cases, it may be someone's only support. So, with faith communities being a natural support system, counseling related to suicide and mental health could improve the willingness of congregation members to reach out for help.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Provide gatekeeper training for staff, volunteers, and even congregation members.
- Develop a Suicide Prevention [Taskforce](#) with faith leaders and some members of the congregation. The Taskforce should focus on engaging congregation members in conversations related to mental health awareness and suicide prevention.
- Gather input from congregation members regarding the likelihood that they would accept mental health support to inform the focus/direction of the taskforce.
- Utilize the [Faith, Hope, Life](#) campaign through the National Action Alliance. This campaign was developed to support faith communities in their efforts to support their congregations and help to prevent suicide.
- Promote connectedness and well-being within the congregation by hosting social gatherings, support groups, and opportunities to discuss difficult issues.
- Identify and support those who may be at risk for suicide.



STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

OVERVIEW

This sector may include mayors, city or county commissioners, state representatives, senators, or tribal chieftains.

When suicide prevention efforts go beyond a single organization or group, they are more likely to reach a whole community. Having representation from public and private sectors can help to ensure that suicide prevention efforts will benefit as many Kansans as possible. State, local, and tribal governments have influence and sway related to policy, funding, and development of programs that can impact suicide prevention efforts at larger scales .

MORE RESOURCES

[Kansas Suicide Prevention Plan 2021-2025](#)

[U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)

[American Association of Suicidology \(AAS\)](#)

[National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)

[CDC: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center - States](#)

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Creating, maintaining, and sustaining state suicide prevention infrastructure:
 - [State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations](#)
 - [Summary Recommendations State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure](#)
 - [Tools to Build a Strong State Foundation: Infrastructure Development](#)
 - [Suicide Prevention Policy and Legislation](#)
- Specifically engaging tribal communities in suicide prevention efforts is imperative due to the ever-growing rates in suicide deaths:
 - [Transforming Tribal Communities: Indigenous Perspectives on Suicide Prevention](#)
 - [Tribal Training and Technical Assistance \(TTA\) through SAMHSA](#)
 - [Best and Promising Practices for the Implementation of Zero Suicide in Indian Country](#)
 - [Suicide Prevention in American Indian/Alaskan Native Settings](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Support for Suicide Prevention by state, local and tribal governments is crucial to supporting the overall well-being of constituents. Specifically speaking, Indigenous suicide is increasing at rates that far exceed the national average. According to the National Indian Council of Aging, “American suicide is up 33% since 1999, but for American Indian and Alaska Native women and men, the increase is even greater: 139% for women and 71% for men.” This increase demonstrates the dire need for prevention efforts to become a top priority on a state level.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

OVERVIEW

This sector includes state and local police, sheriffs, court systems, corrections, and military police.

First responders will inherently interact with people who are experiencing a mental health or suicide crisis. With that being said, this population is also at a higher risk for suicide. So, when thinking about suicide prevention efforts in the context of law enforcement, it's crucial to think about it in two ways, supporting consumers and supporting first responders.

MORE RESOURCES

National Alliance on Mental Illness
[CIT Programs](#)

[Crisis Services Task Force](#)

[Police-Mental Health Collaboration \(PMHC\) Toolkit](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Law Enforcement and First Responders have the ability to contribute to suicide prevention in many ways. Consumers must be met with support and relief when they engage in law enforcement services. When someone is experiencing a mental health or suicide crisis, they are already exposed to a lot of stress. When First Responders are first on the scene in response to a suicide concern, it can make a huge difference if the responders have some ideas of how to engage someone at risk. Additionally, the exposure of trauma for First Responders can be difficult to manage and navigate, but with the right support, they can learn healthy ways to cope.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR SUPPORTERS

- Provide gatekeeper training to all staff:
 - [Crisis Intervention Team](#)
 - [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training](#)
 - [Trauma Training for Criminal Justice Professionals](#)
- Ensure that all First Responders understand their role in preventing suicide.
- Partner with local Community Mental Health Centers to collaborate on supporting consumers who are at risk of suicide
 - [Mobile Crisis Response](#)
 - [Risk assessment facilitation](#)
 - [Co-Responder Teams](#)

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Encourage First Responders to think about gatekeeper training as a way to prevent suicide among consumers and their peers.
- Provide and promote opportunities to further knowledge related to supporting peers
 - [In Harm's Way: Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention](#)
- Start a peer support program for staff
- Engage in awareness campaigns that promote help-seeking behavior
 - [Breaking the Silence: Suicide Prevention in Law Enforcement](#)



PARENTS

OVERVIEW

This sector may include biological parents, adopted parents, foster parents, stepparents, grandparents, and other guardians. The role of parents or guardians in preventing suicide is very important. Early on in a child's life, parents have the opportunity to start talking and teaching about mental well-being. Parents can help shape a child's protective factors, coping skills, help-seeking behavior, social connections, and supportive relationships. They can also be the connection between an at-risk child and professional support services.

POSSIBLE TASKS/ACTIVITIES

- Attend gatekeeper trainings
 - [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Mental Health First Aid](#)
- Become familiar with challenges that youth face
 - [Suicide Prevention: Facts for Parents](#)
 - [Kansas Communities that Care survey](#)
- Talk openly about mental health and suicide and encourage them to ask for help when needed. Sometimes kids have a hard time confiding in their parents for a variety of reasons; explain to children that they can talk to other safe adults if they need to and brainstorm who they might consider talking to.
 - When adults model good coping and self-care, it naturally encourages youth to do the same.
- Be aware of local and national resources, some examples to consider include
 - Local Community Mental Health Center
 - Local Crisis Center
 - Local LGBTQ+ Support Centers/Groups
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800)273-8255
 - Trevor Project (866)488-7386
- Consider mental health support for yourself, your child, and the whole family.
- As a family, participate in a 30-day mental health challenge or join an awareness campaign that prioritizes mental healthcare and suicide prevention.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

A common concern parents have is that talking about suicide might put the idea into their child's head. However, healthily talking about suicide is actually safe and protective. It's important that if someone is thinking about suicide, that they be met with compassion and a willingness to listen. When people feel connected and heard, their risk for suicide decreases, it is not wrong or bad to experience suicidal ideation, but people do not have to carry it alone and deserve help and support.

MORE RESOURCES

[It's Time to Talk about it: A Family Guide for Youth Suicide Prevention Suicide Prevention Resources for Parents/Guardians/Families](#)

[Foster Care Providers: Helping Youth at Risk of Suicide](#)

[Family Acceptance Project - Supporting LGBTQ+ youth](#)

[How to Talk to a Child about a Suicide Attempt in Your Family](#)



MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

OVERVIEW

This sector may include television, radio, printed materials, social media, internet information, and advertising.

Communication around suicide is incredibly important and how messaging is conveyed makes a huge difference. For instance, when media reports are made pertaining to a suicide death, specific guidelines must be followed to ensure the safety and well-being of the survivors of the loss, the community, and anyone else who may see the report. Talking openly about mental health and suicide prevention is safe and protective - the goal should always be to support safety, help-seeking, and healing.

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When reporting on or writing about suicide in media, reports should be done accurately and safely. Unsafe or irresponsible reporting can negatively impact individuals who may be at risk for suicide. We want to be careful not to glamorize or glorify suicide, nor do we want to share graphic details of a suicide attempt or death.

MORE RESOURCES

[Reporting on Suicide Prevention](#)

[Support on Social Media](#)

[Strategic Communication Planning](#)

[Developing and Delivering Effective Suicide Prevention Messaging: We all Play a Role](#)

[News Media's Role in Suicide Prevention: Reporting that Makes Communities Safer](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center: Fast Guide for Safe and Effective Messaging](#)

[Safe Messaging Best Practices for Communicating and Writing about Veteran Suicide](#)

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Engage in gatekeeper training to better understand how to support suicide prevention efforts:
 - [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
- Become familiar with safe suicide prevention reporting guidelines
 - [Action Alliance: Framework for Successful Messaging Guidelines](#)
 - [Support for Suicidal Individuals on Social and Digital Media](#)
 - [News Media's Role in Suicide Prevention: Reporting that Makes Communities Safer](#)
 - [Reporting on Suicide](#)
 - [The Suicide Reporting Toolkit](#)
- Host or participate in suicide prevention and mental health awareness campaigns to highlight and spread messages of hope
 - [#BeThe1To: Be the one to Help Save a Life](#)
 - [It's up to U.S.: A guide to Using Facebook to Promote Suicide Prevention and Mental Illness Stigma Reduction](#)
 - [#BeThere: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
 - [Take 5 to Save Lives](#)
- Promote the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline services
 - Hotline (800)273-8255
 - Chat: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>
 - FAQs: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/faq/>



YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

OVERVIEW

This sector includes organizations such as parks and recreation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Girl or Boy Scouts, YMCAs, YWCAs, 4-H, PTAs, etc.

Youth-serving organizations have a responsibility to provide support and ensure the safety of the youth whom they serve. For some youth, these organizations may be the one place where they receive support, and it is crucial that they understand the organization's role in helping to keep them safe.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Ensure that staff and volunteers participate in gatekeeper training
 - [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - [Mental Health First Aid](#)
 - [Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale](#)
- Engage in activities that promote family involvement/connection
 - Family day
 - Send home discussion questions for youth to discuss with family
 - Safe-adult show and tell
- Support and implement programming that seeks to build protective factors and healthy [help-seeking behavior](#)
 - [Sources of Strength](#)
 - [Erika's Lighthouse](#)
 - [Mental Health First Aid for Teens](#)
- Participate in awareness campaigns
 - [Suicide Awareness Voices of Education](#)
 - [#BeThe1To: Be the one to Help Save a Life](#)
 - [Take 5 to Save Lives](#)
 - [Promote National Suicide Prevention Month](#)

MORE RESOURCES

[Signs of Suicide](#)

[Yellow Ribbon](#)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

When special efforts are made to prioritize mental health awareness and suicide prevention, youth are more likely to feel supported. Spending time discussing healthy help-seeking behavior can significantly increase youth's likelihood of seeking a safe adult should a crisis arise.



OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN PREVENTION EFFORTS

OVERVIEW

Within your community, there are likely other sectors that could support and assist the coalition in carrying out the mission. Some of these groups may include senior citizens, people with disabilities, veterans, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

MORE RESOURCES

[Engaging People with Lived Experience](#)

[Suicide Prevention Resource Center - Resources and Programs](#)

[Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences](#)

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Encourage participants to complete gatekeeper training:
 - o [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training \(ASIST\)](#)
 - o [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\)](#)
 - o [Mental Health First Aid](#)
 - o [Introduction to Suicide Prevention](#)
- Design widespread campaign to promote the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) along with promotion of asking for help.
- Host a community awareness event featuring a presentation by a mental health professional or suicide prevention expert in addition to someone with lived experience.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SECTOR,
VISIT DCCCA'S 12 SECTOR TOOLKIT**

[HTTPS://ISPRI.NG/R2WZL](https://ispri.ng/r2wzl)

TIPS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Coalitions must be representative of the community in which they serve so that all people benefit from the work being done. This specific sector focuses on ensuring that no important players are left out of the brainstorming and decision making. In order to put out equitable work, this sector should also include voices with lived experience (people who have experience with suicide in some capacity and ideally who have taken steps to get help and begin to heal as a way to demonstrate hope and resilience).



To find the toolkits and other prevention resources visit:
<http://www.kansaspreventioncollaborative.org>
<http://www.dccca.org/prevention-resources>

Or follow this link to
access this toolkit and
other helpful resources:

