



Improvements in Self-Reported Suicide Capacity after Community-Led Suicide Prevention Academy

Suicide Research Symposium 2025

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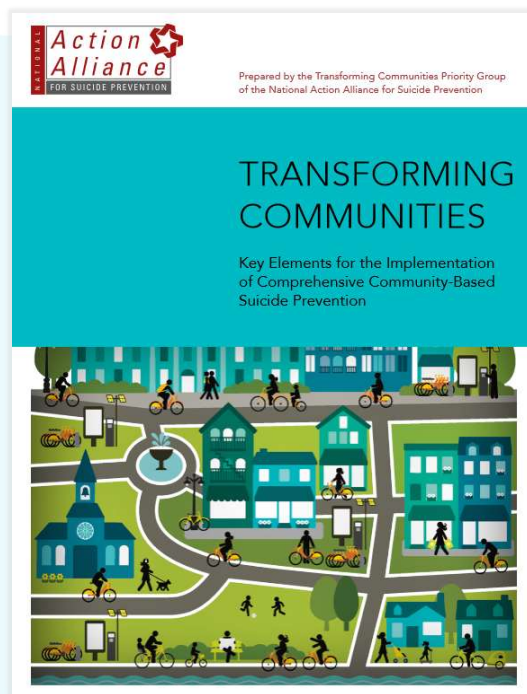


Introduction

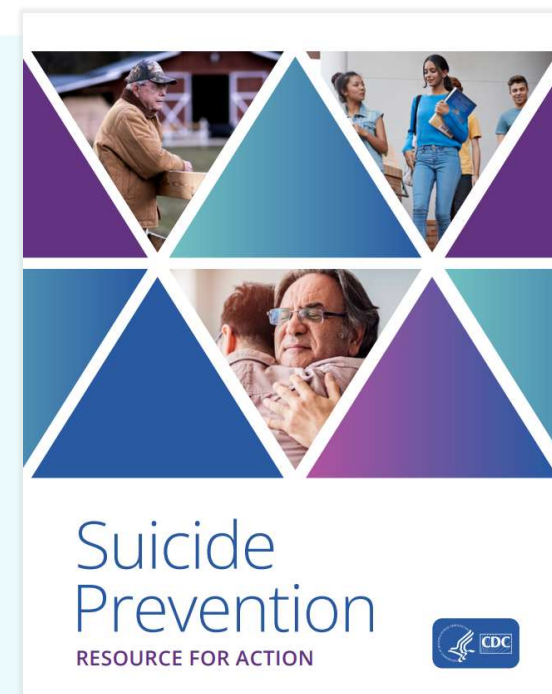
Community-Led Suicide Prevention (CLSP) Project



Inspiration Behind the Community-Led Suicide Prevention Project

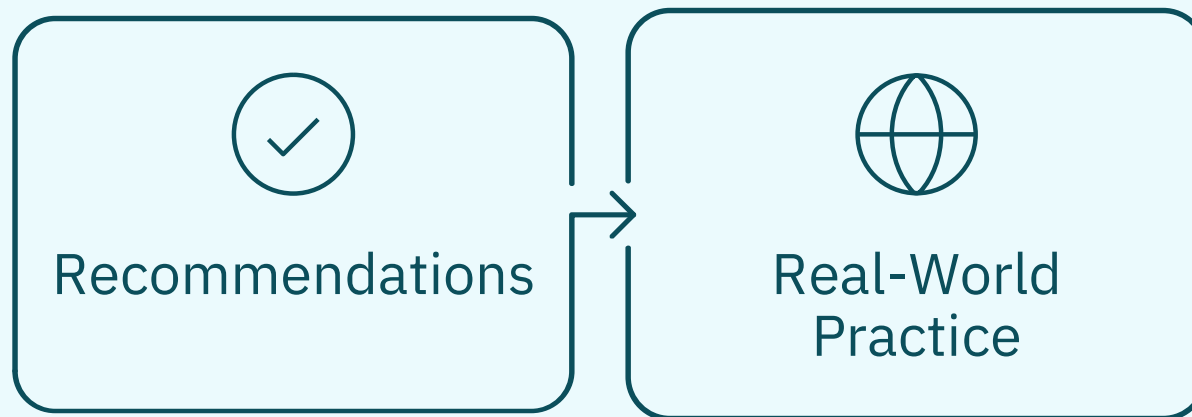


➞ go.edc.org/AA-TransformingCommunities



➞ cdc.gov/suicide/resources/prevention.html

CLSP Helps Advance the *Transforming Communities* Report and CDC's *Suicide Prevention Resource for Action*



CLSP web-based toolkit is designed to help move from high-level recommendations to specific **“how to”** information and resources that support **real-world practice**.

CLSP 7 Key Elements



7 Key Elements for Comprehensive Community-Led Suicide Prevention



Unity



Planning



Integration



Sustainability



Data



Fit

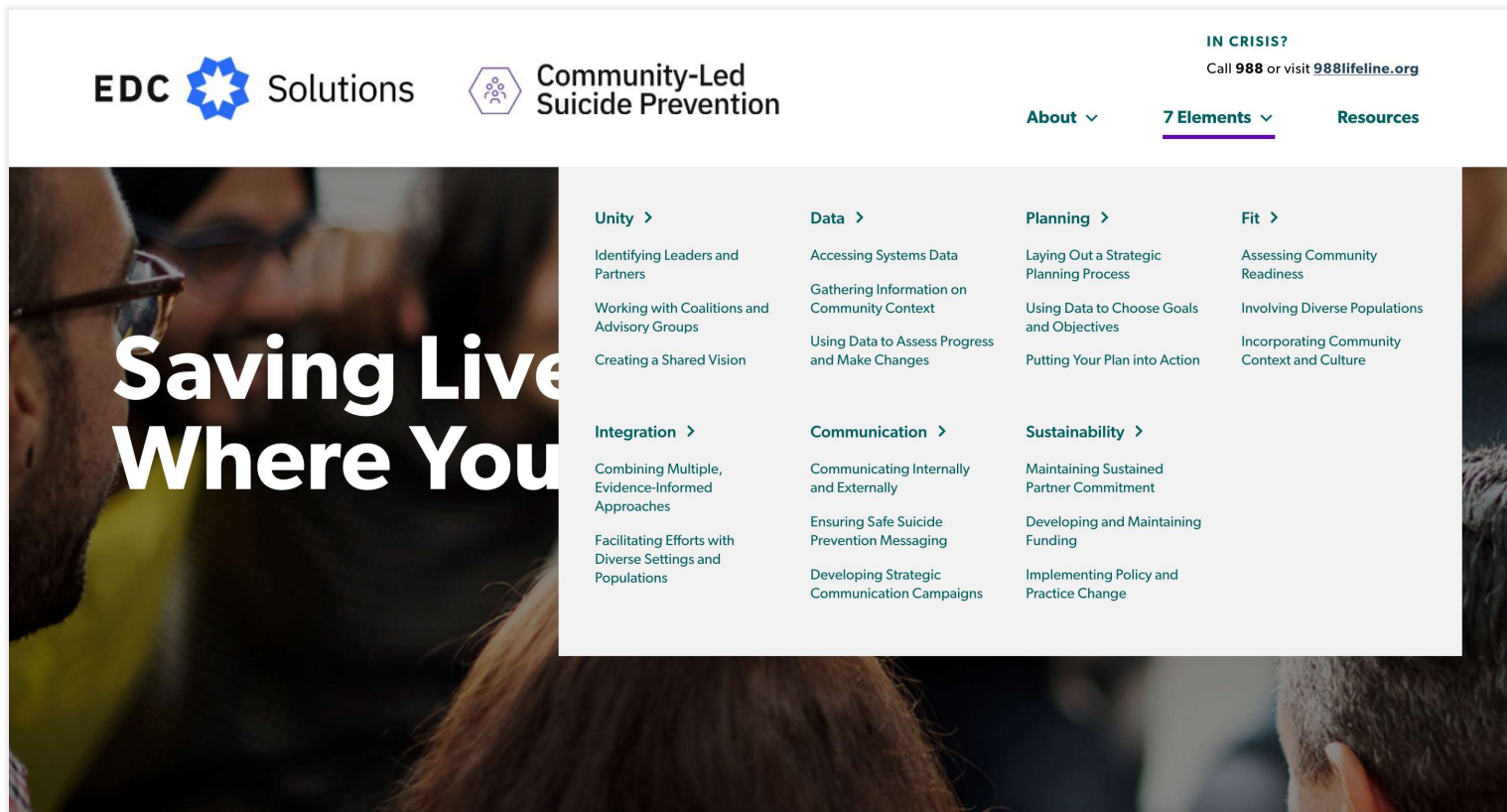


Communication



Adapted from the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's report: *Transforming Communities: Key Elements for Implementation of Comprehensive Community-Based Suicide Prevention*

CLSP Web-Based Toolkit



EDC Solutions **Community-Led Suicide Prevention**

IN CRISIS?
Call **988** or visit 988lifeline.org

About **7 Elements** **Resources**

Saving Lives Where You Live

Unity > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifying Leaders and PartnersWorking with Coalitions and Advisory GroupsCreating a Shared Vision	Data > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accessing Systems DataGathering Information on Community ContextUsing Data to Assess Progress and Make Changes	Planning > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Laying Out a Strategic Planning ProcessUsing Data to Choose Goals and ObjectivesPutting Your Plan into Action	Fit > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessing Community ReadinessInvolving Diverse PopulationsIncorporating Community Context and Culture
Integration > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Combining Multiple, Evidence-Informed ApproachesFacilitating Efforts with Diverse Settings and Populations	Communication > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicating Internally and ExternallyEnsuring Safe Suicide Prevention MessagingDeveloping Strategic Communication Campaigns	Sustainability > <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintaining Sustained Partner CommitmentDeveloping and Maintaining FundingImplementing Policy and Practice Change	

➞ communitysuicideprevention.org

Methods

Evaluation of CLSP Academy and Community of Practice



Background

- Summer 2023: EDC conducted a two-day pilot of CLSP Academy with 7 coalitions across Missouri
 - Teams completed a Readiness Assessment prior to programming, with average score of 49
- All participants invited to participate in a yearlong Community of Practice (CoP)
- Summer 2024: all coalitions were invited to participate in a post-program evaluation

Methods

- Recruitment via email invitations
- Interested coalitions were asked to:
 - Retake a condensed version of the Readiness Assessment
 - Participate in a 45-minute key informant interview over Zoom
- Two coalitions agreed to participate, with one completing both the abbreviated assessment and interview

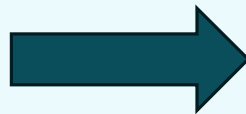
“Since completing the Academy (and CoP), Has your coalition made progress toward achieving its goals? If not, why do you believe that your coalition has not made progress?”

Key Findings



Key Findings – Readiness Assessment

- Baseline Readiness Assessment Score = 26
- Members had varying degrees of suicide prevention knowledge, with noted gaps in topics like funding, root causes, and best practices
- Coalition reported infrequent use of data due to access barriers; national and state data sources most used
- Reported having no committees/subcommittees, no existing strategic planning process and a lack of bylaws



After participation reported:

- Achieving all goals noted in Readiness Assessment
- Advances in comprehensive suicide prevention knowledge and application from limited to advanced
- Improved ability to create shared visions and engage in diverse partnerships
- Significant growth in data access, analysis, and usage
- Ongoing challenges with suicide prevention efforts

Key Informant Interviews – CLSP Academy

- Main themes identified:
 - Collaboration
 - Knowledge Growth
 - Empirical Evidence/Validation

Collaboration

- Share and learn successes and challenges
- Learn about existing efforts across the state
- Strategic collaboration

Knowledge Growth

- Suicide as a public health issue
- Shared risk and protective factors
- The prevention continuum

Empirical Evidence/Validation

- Learn suicide prevention best practices
- Increase confidence and rationale to support efforts

Key Informant Interviews – Community of Practice & Effective Tools

- CoP participation reinforced learning and enhanced accountability
- Interactive nature of CoP, online toolkit, and online platform that housed meeting recordings and resources encouraged participation
- Reported most effective tools were those that were practical, structured, and centralized
 - Outline of topics and detailed step-by-step guidance for activities
 - Logic models, templates of formal agreements and membership protocols, “plug-in” templates
 - Plain language increased accessibility and dissemination of resources/tools

Key Informant Interviews – Quality Improvement Recommendations

Recommendations for Future CLSP Academies and CoP Series:

- 1) Improve example scenarios used in Academy and CoP to be more inclusive of different coalition structures and settings
- 2) Leverage existing connection to coalitions in Missouri to build and sustain partnerships with state level suicide prevention networks in Missouri (e.g., Missouri Suicide Prevention Network)
- 3) Increase guidance on funding strategies and creative ways to fund initiatives at the local level
- 4) Ensure all tools and activities used during programming are practical, structured, and centralized

Summary

Evaluation of CLSP Academy and Community of Practice



Summary of Findings

- **Deeper Public Health Framing:**
 - Coalitions improved their understanding of suicide as a public health issue, integrating it with related topics like substance use and ACEs, and began using a broader prevention continuum (upstream to postvention).
- **Confidence through Evidence-Based Strategies:**
 - Access to empirical evidence and proven practices increased coalition members' confidence, advocacy ability, and implementation of effective prevention strategies.
- **Accountability and Real-Time Application:**
 - The interactive Academy and CoP activities supported reflection, relationship-building, and immediate application of lessons, reinforcing commitment to sustained suicide prevention.
- **Improved Strategic Planning:**
 - Coalitions gained tools to assess community needs, prioritize efforts, and make data-driven decisions for more targeted and effective prevention work.

Closing

Community-Led Suicide Prevention Resources



CLSP Toolkit



Free resource for any community member seeking to advance local suicide prevention efforts

➔ communitysuicideprevention.org

Practical Information

- Examples, how-to steps, and tools
- Plain language for community and lay audiences
 - Can be used by communities and professionals who work with community coalitions

Resource Hub

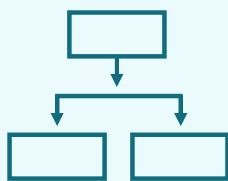
- Provides resources that are:
 - Easy to access and use
 - Suicide-specific OR public-health specific
 - Curated specifically for community suicide prevention

Community-Led Suicide Prevention

Tools



Getting Started Guide: Guidance on the first steps to take when launching a community-led suicide prevention effort



Strategic Planning Worksheet: A tool to help communities choose and prioritize evidence-informed, suicide prevention programs, policies, and practices from CDC's *Suicide Prevention Resource for Action*

Questions?



Thank you

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For more information, check out **solutions.edc.org**

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