

Tools to Build a Strong State Foundation: Infrastructure Development

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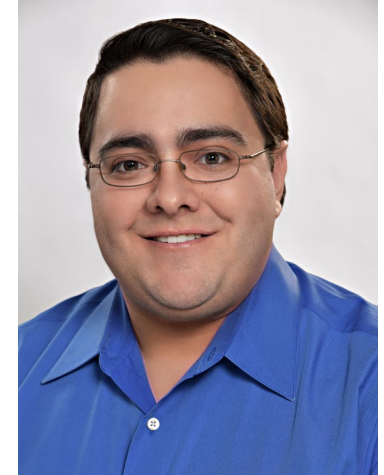
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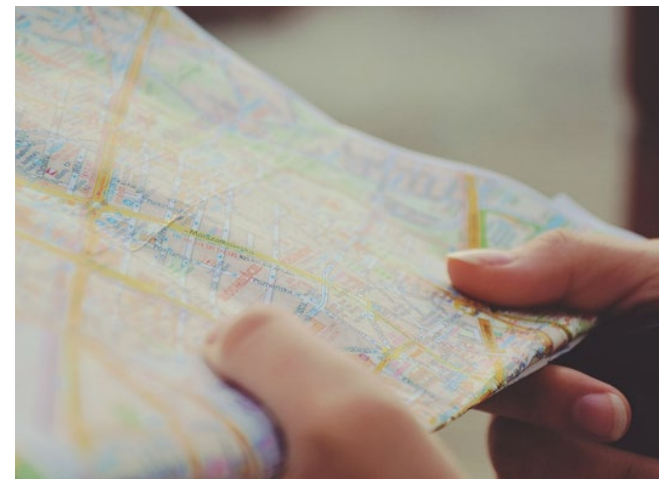


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Roadmap for Today's Workshop

- **Overview:** SPRC's *Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure* (Infrastructure Recommendations) and a few related tools
- **Example:** How the Infrastructure Recommendations and tools helped in Michigan
- **Your turn:** Try out a tool and discuss your infrastructure



State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure: Working Definition

A state's **concrete, practical foundation or framework** that supports suicide prevention-related systems, organizations, and efforts, including the fundamental parts and organization of parts that are **necessary for planning, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability.**

State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure: Overview of the Recommendations

The *Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure* articulate essential infrastructure elements for advancing and sustaining suicide prevention efforts.

- ✓ Released by SPRC in 2019
- ✓ Developed in collaboration with an advisory panel of experts and key stakeholders
- ✓ Available at [sprc.org/state-infrastructure](https://www.sprc.org/state-infrastructure)



Six Essential Elements of State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure:

- ★ **Authorize - Designate a lead division** or organization for suicide prevention in the state and give it the resources and authority to carry out all of the recommendations.
- ★ **Lead** - Maintain a **dedicated leadership position**, as well as **core staff** positions and capacity, and create cross-agency and cross-sector **collaboration** within the state government.
- ★ **Partner** - Ensure a broad, inclusive **public-private partnership** or coalition at the state level with a shared vision and commitment to suicide prevention.
- ★ **Examine** - Support **high-quality suicide data collection** at the state and local levels to inform and evaluate prevention efforts.
- ★ **Build** - Create a **multi-faceted lifespan approach** to suicide prevention across the state and allocate sufficient resources to fully implement and evaluate it.
- ★ **Guide** - **Support all state, county, and local efforts** in the planning, execution, and evaluation of their efforts, including allocation of needed resources.



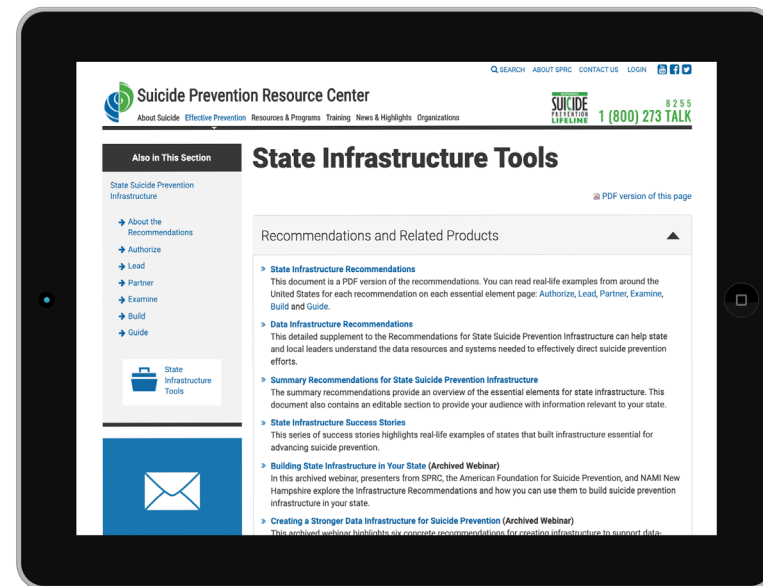
State Infrastructure Tools



Overview of State Infrastructure Tools

Related tools and resources to support the Infrastructure Recommendations include:

- ✔ Downloadable versions of the full and summary recommendations
- ✔ Detailed supplement on the data resources and systems needed to effectively direct suicide prevention efforts
- ✔ Success story series that highlights real-world examples of strong state infrastructure
- ✔ Resources to help states with little suicide prevention infrastructure get started
- ✔ Tools for champions of the recommendations to use with state policymakers









<https://www.sprc.org/stateInfrastructure/tools>

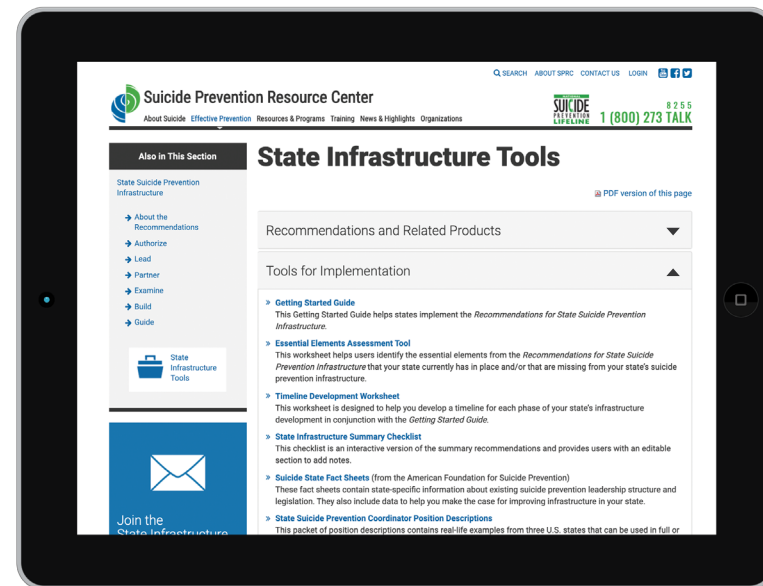
State Infrastructure Tools:

Recommendations and Related Products ▼

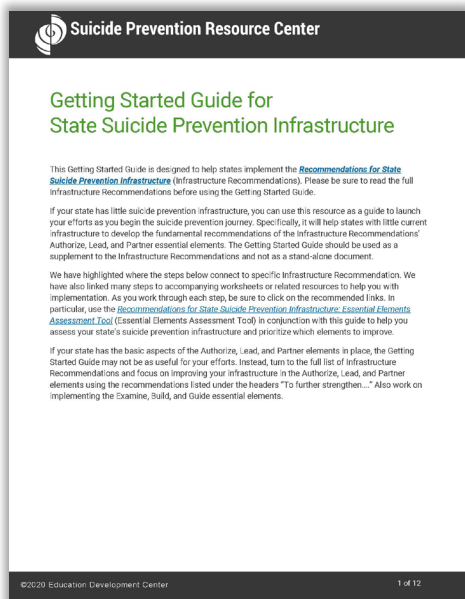
Tools for Implementation ▲

-  **Getting Started Guide (PDF)**
-  **Essential Elements Assessment Tool (PDF)**
-  **Timeline Development Worksheet (PDF)**
-  **State Infrastructure Summary Checklist (PDF)**
-  **Suicide State Fact Sheets from AFSP (Webpage)**
-  **State Suicide Prevention Coordinator Position Descriptions (PDF)**

For Champions ▼



State Infrastructure Tools: Tools for Implementation



Getting Started Guide

This resource is designed to help states with little suicide prevention infrastructure put in place the Authorize, Lead, and Partner essential elements of the Infrastructure Recommendations.

State Infrastructure Tools: Tools for Implementation

Summary Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure

Suicide prevention is more than crisis services and treatment. Based on thorough research, expert consensus, and known best practices, these recommendations will help streamline your suicide prevention efforts and improve capacity to save lives in your state.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Authorize

- Designate a lead division or organization
- Identify and secure resources required to carry out all six essential functions
- Maintain a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3-5 years

To further strengthen your infrastructure:

- Authorize the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan
- Engage in annual report to the legislature or governors on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the needs and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs

Lead

- 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 your infrastructure:

- 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 cross-agency commitment to collaborate and leverage programs across funding sources

Partner

- Form a statewide coalition with broad public and private sector commitments
- Adopt a shared vision and language across partners

To further strengthen your infrastructure:

- Build partner capacity to integrate suicide prevention efforts into their structures, policies, and activities
- Develop written agreements detailing each partner's commitment

Examine

- Allocate sufficient funding and personnel to support high quality, privacy-protected suicide morbidity and mortality data collection and analysis
- Identify, connect with, and strengthen existing data sources
- Ensure that high-risk and underserved populations are represented in data collection
- Develop the skills and a plan for regularly analyzing and using data to inform action at the state and local levels

To further strengthen your infrastructure:

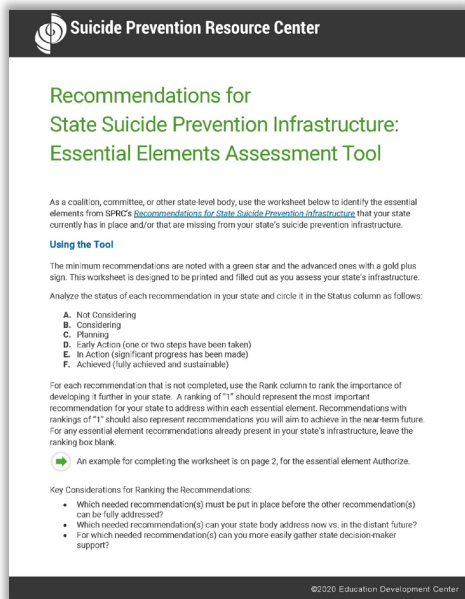
- Link data from different systems while protecting privacy

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State Infrastructure Summary Checklist

This checklist is an interactive version of the Summary Recommendations and provides users with an editable section to add notes.

State Infrastructure Tools: Tools for Implementation



Essential Elements Assessment Tool

This worksheet can help you identify essential elements from the Infrastructure Recommendations that your state currently has in place and/or that are missing from your state's suicide prevention infrastructure.

State Infrastructure Tools:

Recommendations and Related Products ▼

Tools for Implementation ▼

For Champions ▲



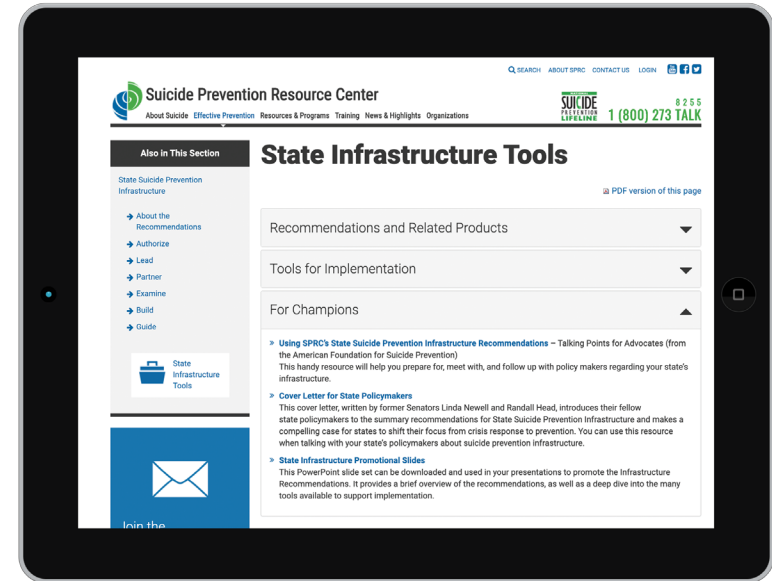
From AFSP: Using SPRC's State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations (PDF)



Cover Letter for State Policy Makers (PDF)



State Infrastructure Promotional Slides (PPT)



Discussing State Infrastructure with Policymakers

Nicole Gibson, MSW



“Using the SPRC State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations”

AFSP-developed guide for advocates that provides:

- **Summary of what the recommendations are and how advocates can get involved**
- **Suggested prep-work**
- **Talking points for initial meetings with policymakers**
- **Suggested follow-up activities**



Who to meet with and why?

Who: State lawmakers and other public officials engaged in (or who should be engaged in) statewide suicide prevention efforts and funding decisions.

Why: Encourage an objective assessment of which of the six essential elements are currently being carried out in your state and where more advanced implementation is needed.



Prep-Work

Prior to any meetings, make sure you can answer:

- **What is my state's existing infrastructure?**
- **What is in our state plan, and when was it last updated?**
- **Who is involved? Do they work together?**
- **How are activities currently funded? Is this enough?**
- **What gaps need to be addressed?**



Prep-Work

- **Start early - allow enough time to be thorough**
- **Work with a small group to divide tasks and share ideas**
- **Coordinate with and solicit input from your state suicide prevention coordinator (sprc.org/states) and AFSP Chapter (afsp.org/chapters)**



Talking Points

Written as a script with highlighted sections for you to personalize:

- **Your “elevator speech” of why you advocate for suicide prevention**
- **Where you think your state is meeting SPRC’s minimum and advanced recommendations**
- **What gaps you think need to be addressed and what the policymaker can do**
- **How you/your organization can help**



Follow Through

After your initial meeting, make sure you:

- **Find and deliver answers to questions**
- **Facilitate local connections**
- **Report back to your state suicide prevention coordinator and AFSP Chapter**
- **Schedule a follow-up meeting to discuss next steps**





Tools in Action



Using the SPRC Infrastructure Tools in Michigan

Corbin J. Standley, M.A.



Context

Who: AFSP Field Advocates, legislators, and MDHHS staff

Prep-Work:

- Assess existing state plan and infrastructure
- Meet with other legislators and stakeholders
- Identify gaps and talking points
- Work with (then) Representative Runestad and AFSP Public Policy office to draft report

Outcome: State Suicide Prevention Commission established



Getting Started Guide

Helped us to set an agenda for the Commission work and align our efforts with other statewide collaborators.

- Convene state agencies and non-profits in Michigan
- Analyze state infrastructure and trends
- Identify MDHHS as lead organization
- Work is ongoing to identify funding and update the State Suicide Prevention Plan



Summary Checklist

Used to inform Commission priorities:

1. Minimizing risk for suicidal behavior by promoting safe environments, resiliency and connectedness
2. Increasing and expanding access to care to support those at risk
3. Improving suicide prevention training and education
4. Implementing best practices in suicide prevention for health care systems
5. Enhancing suicide specific data collection and systems



Essential Elements Assessment

Helped us to identify where we are as a state and identify opportunities for growth

- Michigan is doing fairly well in Authorize, Lead, and Partner
- Making good progress in Examine
- More work to do in Build and Guide



Essential Element: Authorize

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Authorize web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
★ Designate a lead division or organization	A B C D E F	3	MDHHS has been designated as the lead organization.
★ Identify and secure resources required to carry out all six essential functions	A B C D E F	4	MDDHS is leading most functions with others (e.g., Leg., Ed., VA, With One Voice, etc.) tasked to carry out others.
★ Maintain a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3–5 years	A B C D E F	1	State suicide prevention plan is in the process of being updated. Last update was 2012.



<p>+ Authorize the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan</p>	<p>A B C D (E) F</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>MDHHS leads on the development of the plan with the support of the Commission.</p>
<p>+ Require an annual report to the legislature or governor on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the extent and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs</p>	<p>A B C D E (F)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The Commission submits an annual report to the legislature on the scope of the issue, prevention efforts, and recommendations.</p>





Your Turn!



Summary Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure

★ RECOMMENDATIONS

Authorize

- ★ Designate a lead division or organization
- ★ Identify and secure resources required to carry out all six essential functions
- ★ Maintain a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3-5 years

To further strengthen your infrastructure:

- + Authorize the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan
- + Require an annual report to the legislature or governor on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the extent and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs

Assess Your State's Authorize Infrastructure

- ★ Handout, p.5: sample of Authorize section of the Essential Elements Assessment Tool
- ★ **Status** column: rate each **green star** recommendation as A-F
 - ★ Criteria in **green** in upper right corner
- ★ Don't know? Leave status blank; write a note
- ★ Rank column: how important is it to develop this piece of infrastructure in your state?
 - ★ (1 = most important)

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Essential Element: Authorize A. Not considering B. Considering C. Planning D. Early Action
E. In action/Significant progress F. Achieved/Sustainable

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Authorize web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
★ Designate a lead division or organization	A B C D E F		
★ Identify and secure resources required to carry out all six essential functions	A B C D E F		
★ Maintain a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3-5 years	A B C D E F		
+ Authorize the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan	A B C D E F		
+ Require an annual report to the legislature or governor on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the extent and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs	A B C D E F		

Assess Your State

- ★ Handout, p.5
- ★ **Status** column:
rate **green star**
recommendations
 - Criteria in upper right
- ★ **Rank** column:
 - Priority 1, 2, or 3 to develop?



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Essential Element: Authorize

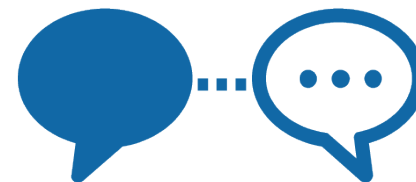
A. Not considering B. Considering C. Planning D. Early Action
E. In action/Significant progress F. Achieved/Sustainable

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Authorize web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
★ Designate a lead division or organization	A B C D E F		
★ Identify and secure resources required to carry out all six essential functions	A B C D E F		
★ Maintain a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3–5 years	A B C D E F		

Discussion

1. What did you notice about the poll trends and where your state falls?
2. What helped your state get one of the recommendations to its current status?
3. What challenges have you faced in trying to move ahead on any of the recommendations? What would help you?
4. Any reflections on using the tool?





Next Steps

Next Steps

- Use the tools with your stakeholder group(s)!
 - Getting Started Guide
 - Essential Elements Assessment tool
 - Using SPRC's State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure Recommendations
- Browse the Infrastructure Recommendations tools and resources for others that may be useful to you
- Contact SPRC or AFSP for support

Thank you!

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