

## Clarify Stakeholders' Interests and Goals

People are usually more willing to work with you when it aligns with their agenda, and they can benefit from the partnership as well. So you might want to begin a meeting by explaining your focus on mental health and suicide prevention and then turn the attention to them. Find out why student mental health is important to them and figure out how you can support their interests. By engaging your potential partners in these types of conversations, you can identify shared goals.

*Here are some questions you can ask potential partners to find out their opinions related to your efforts, and also to learn about their own interests and goals.*

**Why is student mental health/suicide prevention important to you?**

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**What are your goals for student mental health/suicide prevention (or for another issue that you are concerned about)?**

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**What data do you collect related to mental health issues (or an issue you're concerned about)? How do you get that data?**

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**What expertise and resources do you have relevant to student mental health/suicide prevention (or an issue you are concerned about)?**

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**What other partners could you bring to the table to enhance the outcome for these goals?**

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**What do you do (e.g., activities or tasks) that is relevant to student mental health/suicide prevention (and/or an issue that you are concerned about)?**

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**What specific results are you seeking?**

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**What do you see as barriers to implementing mental health/suicide prevention initiatives?**

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**How would you benefit from participating in this potential collaboration?**

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