

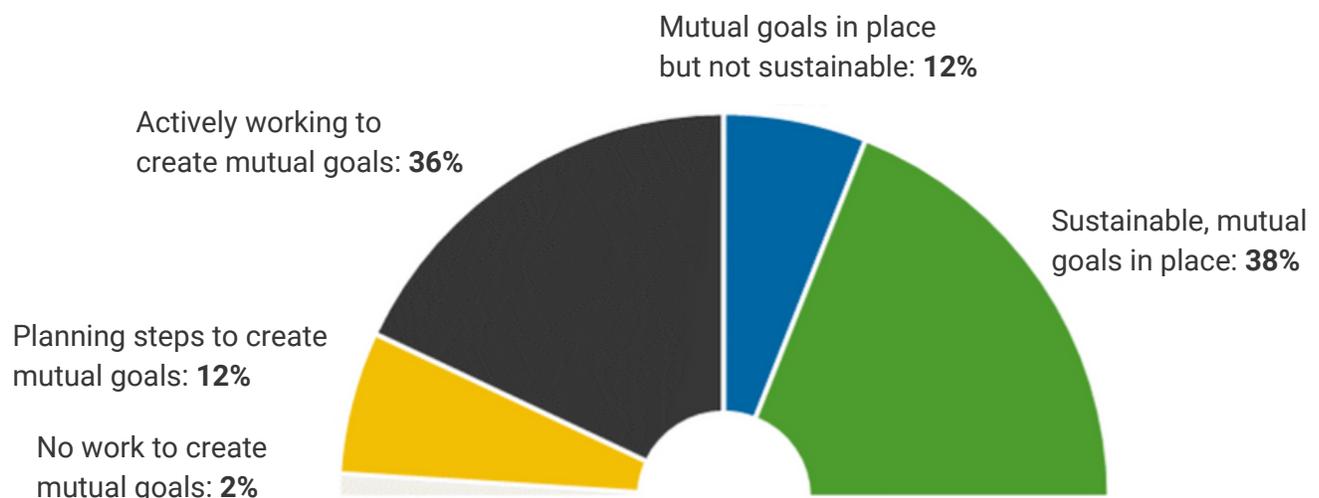


### Priority Area 2: Grow partner and leader coordination in suicide prevention

In 2022, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) conducted a State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (<http://ow.ly/BEgG50KxgfN>). Examining responses from 42 states and 2 territories, SPRC identified four priority areas for action to strengthen U.S. suicide prevention efforts. This PDF provides a summary of Priority Area 2.

Eighty-three percent (35 of 42) states and territories reported having a state- or territory-wide suicide prevention coalition bringing together public and private sector partners to guide suicide prevention efforts. However, only 50% of states or territories (21) reported having mutual goals sustainably guiding these joint prevention efforts (Figure 1). Conflicting priorities, competing interests, and a lack of dedicated staff across partners limit coalition members' abilities to collaborate in suicide prevention.

Figure 1: State/Territorial Progress toward Setting Mutual Coalition Goals (N=42)



"The biggest barrier is ensuring . . . agencies are invested in suicide prevention."

– SNA Participant

"It is really hard to build relationships across an entire state in both the public and private sectors."

– SNA Participant



Only 38% (16 of 42) of states and territories shared that partnering state agencies and departments had integrated suicide prevention into their structures, policies, or activities. Only 19% (8) of respondents reported having written agreements (e.g., memorandum of understanding) in place defining organizational roles in suicide prevention. Thirteen respondents described a lack of coordination and communication across partners as impeding state and territories' abilities to effectively prevent suicide.



**To increase reach and the ability to implement a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention, steps must be taken to strengthen coordination and formalize partnerships dedicated to suicide prevention.**

### Growing Partner Support in Nebraska

The [Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition](#) (NSSPC) was launched in 1999 to bring public and private partners together to prevent suicide. Recognized by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as the primary group responsible for coordinating Nebraska's suicide prevention efforts, the NSSPC has experienced robust growth in partner and leader support over the past 20 years. The diverse support for NSSPC includes both traditional and non-traditional partners such as the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors, the Nebraska National Guard, Bryan Health, Santee Sioux Nation Society of Care, Local Outreach to Suicide Survivor Teams, Nebraska Extension, and more. Through its workgroups and representation of local coalitions, the NSSPC has contributed to robust and consistent engagement in suicide prevention.

The NSSPC is a recognized 501C3, allowing it to benefit from the financial support of private foundations, grants, and in-kind donations while coalescing partners around a unified goal of zero suicide in Nebraska. For example, NSSPC's generous partners collectively provide private foundation dollars, grants, and in-kind donations to offer annual mini-grants. These mini-grants support community organizations in carrying out evidence-informed suicide prevention practices that promote the achievement of mutual goals. The NSSPC works to elevate communication from local organizations to the state level, ensuring all partners collectively develop a shared understanding of suicide prevention. Unifying partners around a mutual NSSPC vision has contributed to robust growth in state support for suicide prevention over time.

**To promote suicide prevention in your state, visit SPRC's *Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure* ([sprc.org/state-infrastructure](https://sprc.org/state-infrastructure)) and state pages ([sprc.org/states](https://sprc.org/states)).**