

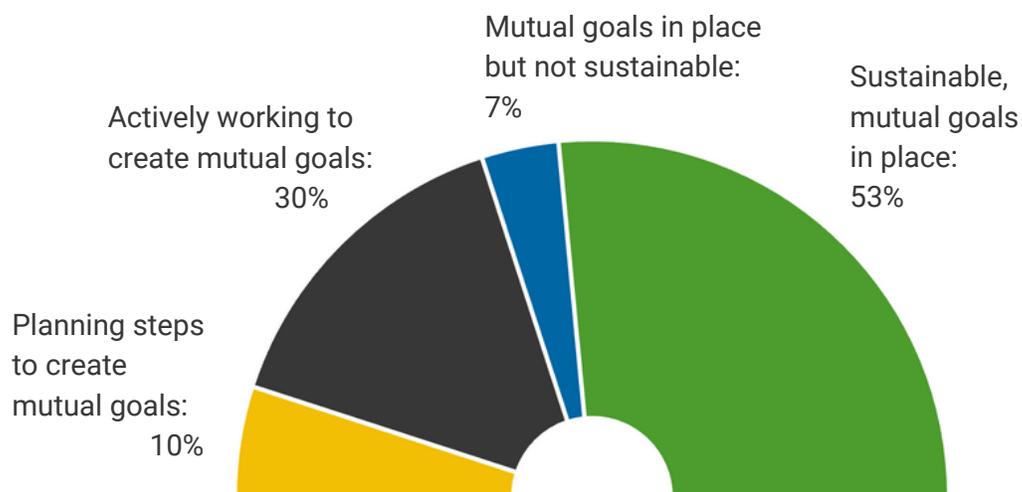


Priority Area 2: Grow partner and leader support for suicide prevention

In 2021, The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) conducted a State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (ow.ly/OcuU50H5Lap). Examining responses from 38 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.

Seventy-seven percent (30 out of 39) of 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 53% of states or territories with coalitions (16) reported having mutual goals sustainably guiding these joint prevention efforts (Figure 1). Conflicting priorities, competing interests over funding sources, and a lack of overall coordination between key prevention stakeholders limit coalitions' abilities to share data and resources and implement a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention.

Figure 1: State/Territorial Progress toward Setting Mutual Coalition Goals (N=30)



"[A challenge is] decision-makers wanting easy quick fixes rather than investment in sustainable, long-term community efforts."
— SNA Participant

"Everyone has their priority issue, and we can't do everything . . . [We are] working to get buy-in on a collective impact model."
— SNA Participant



Eighty-nine percent (34 of 38) of states and territories shared that their suicide prevention plans promote a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention. But a lack of formal leader support to invest in long-term prevention efforts hampered efforts to implement the prevention strategies necessary for that approach. Ten states specifically described challenges in gaining buy-in from state legislatures.



To increase suicide prevention strategy implementation reach, steps must be taken to formalize partnerships dedicated to suicide prevention and ensure full leadership investment in comprehensive, long-term 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) and state pages (sprc.org/states).