

Expanding Community-Based Suicide Prevention (ECSP)

In 2024, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), launched the **Expanding Community-Based Suicide Prevention (ECSP)** project. Local health departments (LHDs) are uniquely positioned to serve as a central point through which collaborating organizations can coalesce to understand community needs and to implement comprehensive, locally responsive suicide prevention efforts. The ECSP project aimed to support LHDs and their community partners with two, distinct project tracks:

- 1) Planning Track- LHDs developed a comprehensive suicide prevention strategic plan that was responsive to local data and needs.
- 2) Implementation Track- LHDs implemented and evaluated comprehensive suicide prevention efforts.

The two (2) Planning Track sites engaged community collaborators to develop or maintain an organizing body committed to local suicide prevention and used data to identify disproportionately affected populations in the community and to understand the prevalence of risk and protective factors, including shared risk and protective factors with other related health issues. After participating in a two-day, in person strategic planning workshop with NACCHO, they developed and adopted a comprehensive, community-based strategic plan for local suicide prevention. Finally, they identified and selected evidence-based strategies to strengthen prevention and response efforts.

The one (1) Implementation Track site implemented suicide prevention activities from an existing action plan or strategic plan, with a focus on disproportionately affected populations. They tailored those activities to align with a comprehensive, community-based approach, including the incorporation of a shared risk and protective factors approach whenever possible and engaged and/or strengthened cross-sector partnerships involved in implementation. They develop and adopted a logic model and work plan to guide implementation work and completed an evaluation plan to measure and report implementation progress, as well as demonstrate outcomes as appropriate.

From December 2024 through July 2025, NACCHO provided funding to three (3) LHDs to strengthen their community-based suicide prevention efforts.

Project Sites:

- City of Independence, MO (Planning Track)
- District Health Department #10, MI (Planning Track)
- Public Health District IV- Central District Health, ID (Implementation Track)