

SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN

July-September 2021 Newsletter

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month in South Dakota. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness. Everyone has a role in preventing suicide.

In September, challenge yourself to get involved. Attend a training or awareness event, host an activity at your school or place of work! For more ideas on ways to get involved, visit the [South Dakota Suicide Prevention](#) website. We want to hear from you what you are doing in your community to bring awareness to this important topic. [Submit](#) your community event or training to be posted on the South Dakota Suicide Prevention website's [event and training calendar](#) today!

COMMUNICATIONS

Text4Hope

The Helpline Center's [Text4Hope](#) program provides crisis texting support for all high school students in the state of South Dakota. Since texting is the preferred means of communication for adolescents, offering a crisis texting program allows students to share their concerns privately with trusted staff. Students can text "icare" to 898211 to reach Helpline Center staff. Help is available 24/7.

988 Planning Efforts

Effective July of 2022, the 1-800-273-8255 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will be transitioning to an easy to remember three-digit number, 988. The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health in partnership with the Helpline Center, applied for and was awarded the 988 Planning Grant. The 988 Planning Grant will assist states in planning for the implementation of the new three-digit number for mental health and suicide response. For more information please see: <https://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/grantinfo.aspx>; 988 Planning Grant.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Toolkits

Communities can play a critical role in suicide prevention. Community toolkits provide step-by-step guides and a comprehensive approach for communities to engage in suicide prevention. [Click here](#) to see the community toolkits.

EVENTS

For more information on events, visit the South Dakota Suicide Prevention [Calendar](#).

August

7 – Yankton Step Forward to Prevent Suicide
 16 – YMHA Training, Rapid City
 17 – QPR Training, Rapid City
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 18 – QPR Training, Rapid City
 18 – Mission:Possible Reducing the Impact of Substance Abuse & Mental Illness, Sioux Falls
 18 & 19 – Summit on Building a Crisis Response Continuum in our Communities, Oacoma
 19 – QPR Training, Rapid City
 20 – YMHA Training, Rapid City

September

- Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

To request a training for your community, [click here](#).

Behavioral Health Voucher Program

The Behavioral Health Voucher Program offers funding assistance and support for mental health and substance use services for persons impacted by the natural disasters of 2019 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Dial 211 to learn more and determine if you are eligible for treatment cost assistance. Services covered by vouchers include mental health, substance use, transportation, and medication costs assistance. Services can be in-person or via telemedicine. You and your provider determine how many sessions you need. For eligibility requirements and more information, please see <https://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/services.aspx>.

