



Working Together Toward Preventing Suicide

Support Veterans in Your Community

VA's highest clinical priority is Veteran suicide prevention. But we can't do it alone. Everyone has a role to play in keeping Veterans healthy and safe. **And it starts in your community.**



Why communities are critical in preventing Veteran suicide

Approximately half of Veterans receive care outside VA. VA is dedicated to reaching all Veterans where they live and connect. To do this, VA and communities are coming together to implement the public health approach, combining community and clinical interventions for suicide prevention. Together, VA and communities can work toward ending Veteran suicide.



What you can do

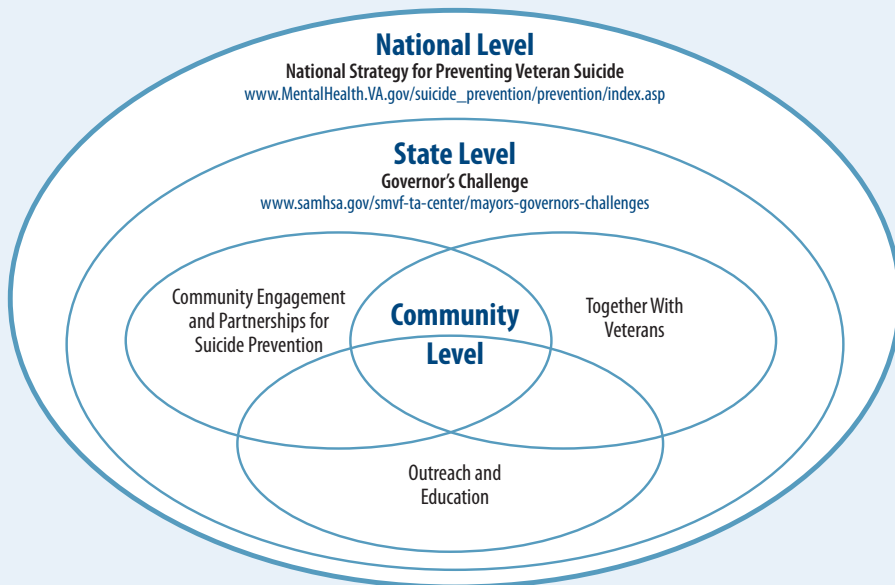
We invite communities to partner with our community engagement and partnership coordinators to enhance suicide prevention efforts. Community partners may include:

- Community mental health organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, or homeless organizations
- Mental health providers
- First responders or members of the clergy
- Representatives of a municipality, business, recreational organization or club, or health agency
- Veterans, service members, or members of their families
- Gun shop owners or employees
- Community members



How it works

VA uses evidence-based interventions to reach Veterans through multiple touchpoints at the local, state, and national levels.



Priority areas of focus



Identify service members, Veterans, and their families and screen for suicide risk



Promote connectedness and improve care transitions



Increase lethal means safety and safety planning

How to start

Contact your nearest community engagement partnership coordinator (CEPC), who may help the community identify care needs and opportunities for support and facilitate coalition efforts for suicide prevention public health strategies.

CEPCs are available to assist communities with:

- Coalition building and assisting with organizing coalition leadership
- Logistical and technical support
- Conducting needs assessments and environmental scans
- Program evaluation
- Data surveillance
- Action planning
- Knowledge about VA
- Suicide prevention training
- Outreach and education related to suicide prevention strategies

If you're passionate about supporting Veterans, join us. You can make a difference in a unified effort to prevent Veteran suicide.

Local CEPC contact information

Meagan Sherman, CISW
Columbia VA Health Care System
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803-724-7194



24/7 Support for Veterans and Their Loved Ones

No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the Veterans Crisis Line number—**Dial 988 then Press 1**—in your phone in case you or a Veteran you care about needs support. Caring responders are ready to listen and help day or night.