

Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition

Request for Organizational Support

The Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition (PSSC) is looking to identify an organization to serve in a coordination and structural support role for its members.

PSSC Background

The Mission of PSSC is to reduce suicide attempts and rates in Spokane County. The coalition partners have been meeting together since 2002 to coordinate efforts and strategies among the partners. In 2013, the Spokane Regional Health District was no longer able to lead the work of the coalition. From 2013 to 2019, the coalition continued to meet with direction from members. Most recently, with SRHD's facilitation support, the Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition (PSSC) engaged in a strategic planning initiative From April through July 2019. The result was a three-year community-impact plan to address the suicide rates in Spokane County. Over 60 participants representing 36 organizations participated in the process.

By developing a Spokane County-wide Strategic Plan, Coalition partners have identified what it will take to have significant impact on reducing the upward trend of suicide attempts and deaths in our county. Our vision is:

By 2022, the Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition will have a **clear operational strategy** from which they will have provided **early investment in children and families**, created a **community invested towards connectedness**, shifted **community and cultural norms**, improved the **spectrum of care**, decreased **access to lethal means**, and build **compassionate and robust aftercare** in order to reduce the suicide and attempted suicide rates in Spokane County.

To realize this vision, PSSC developed three strategic directions: (1) Expanding Inclusion and Reach; (2) Enhancing Community Competence Around Suicide Prevention; and (3) Strengthening the Safety Net. The plan was designed to support collective action: where individual action may not be effective and where partnerships and collaboration are needed to have an impact.

Early efforts to implement the strategy plan ran into barriers, particularly the ability to develop a key component: an information hub. None of the partners at the table had the ability to serve as the "home" for the information hub. Without key infrastructure, the partners soon realized other areas of needed collective action would also be a significant challenge. The solution: identify a backbone organization to coordinate collective action.

PSSC Support for the Backbone Organization

The PSSC Backbone Organization (PSSC BBO) will be able to leverage skills, expertise, and relationships of a passionate group of intra-disciplinary professionals, committed to addressing rising rates of suicide in Spokane. Through their relationships, members have a strong history of sharing information and resources, working together, striving for inclusiveness, and serving as educators and communicators of suicide prevention efforts in Spokane County, and the work of the Coalition.

Members will support the PSSC BBO by:

- Providing their skills (e.g. trainings) and networks recruit members and help get a diversity of partners, expertise, and lenses to the table.

- Providing up-to-date and accurate information on events, activities, and the organizations that provide suicide prevention services.
- Sharing grant opportunities, providing letters of support to ensure the work of the PSSC BBO is fully funded
- Participating in the development and implementation of the strategic plan.
- Serve in leadership roles in the Coalition: chair, secretary, workgroup leads.

Through the PSSC members and their collaborative strategy plan, we anticipate that the PSSC BBO will have the necessary support for successful grant applications.

PSSC BBO Job Description

The Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition (PSSC) backbone organization (BBO) provides a coordination and leadership role for PSSC partners to more effectively work together towards collective action. The PSSC-BBO supports the work of the PSSC through taking responsibility for leading the group in implementing their strategic plan, finding funding and staffing to support the work outline in the strategic plan where PSSC partners are unable to. The PSSC-BBO works on behalf of the coalition, and its mission complements the mission of the PSSC and its member organizations. To that end, the PSSC-BBO demonstrates an energy and compassion for people supported by PSSC members, and its values and mission reflects being person and community service centered. Job duties include:

Fundraising

- Identifies funding opportunities and work with partners for who would best apply for and administer the funds.
- Applies for funding that focuses on areas within the strategic plan and supports their role as the “backbone organization”.

Coordination

- Provides operational oversight to the PSSC (e.g. coordinating and facilitating PSSC meetings and communication among members)
- Serves as PSSC “project manager” (e.g. overseeing project timelines, ensuring implementation of the Strategic Plan)

Staffing

- Recruits, hires and supervises staff/interns needed to execute the deliverables identified as needed to support the PSSC and their implementation of the strategic plan.

Evaluation

- Measuring progress and performance of the activities implemented by the PSSC.
- Ensures evaluations are conducted, utilizing existing data sets where available, to describe the collective impact of the coalition partners on suicide rates in our community.
- Share stories of success and outcomes with a variety of audiences.

Communications

- Brings in new partners, and reconnects existing organizations.
- Provides a “go to” space to connect the community with the Coalition,
- Develops the “Information Hub” (specified in the strategic plan) that is easily accessible to the public.

- Helps get information out to the community from the different partners.
- Speaks on behalf of the coalition.

Advocacy

- Identifies advocacy opportunities
- Coordinating advocacy efforts as PSSC determines the effort is important.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be located within Spokane County
- Be eligible to administer federal, state and local foundation grant awards
- Follow all federal non-discrimination employment policies
- Be committed to equity, transparency, person/community service centered, and advocacy for evidence-based suicide prevention.

Application Process:

- Answer the questions on the following page and email the answers to heidimeriewilson@gmail.com **by March 26**. Only applicants that meet minimum qualifications will be asked to meet with the Coalition Partners. If you have questions, please send them to heidimeriewilson@gmail.com at least one week before the deadline.
- Attend a virtually meeting with the PSSC on **April 6**, and share for no more than 15 minutes why your organization would be well situated to serve as the backbone PSSC. This is designed as an informal sharing session. No formal presentation is required.

All applicants will be notified of the final selection within one week of the virtual meeting, unless otherwise notified.

Prevent Suicide Spokane Coalition

Backbone Organization Application Form

Please answer the following questions. Although there is no strict page limit, we anticipate the total application should not need to be more than two pages.

Organization Name:

Contact Name:

Phone number:

Email:

1. How does your organization currently support, directly or indirectly, Suicide Prevention efforts in Spokane?

2. Is your organization eligible to apply for federal, state and local foundation grants? Have you successfully applied and received grants from these sources in the past?

3. Do you have approval from senior leadership within your organization to serve as the backbone organization to the PSSC? YES NO

4. How has your organization demonstrated a commitment to equity, transparency, person/community service centered, and advocacy for evidence-based suicide prevention?

5. What experience or capacity does your organization currently have in:

- Coordinating the work of a partnership?
- Building up a coalition with new/diverse partners?
- Conducting or overseeing evaluations of program activities, particularly were there are multiple partners involved in the program?
- Providing a “go to” space to connect the community with partners and disseminating information?
- Staffing support for a coalition?