

# Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure: Essential Elements Assessment Tool

As a coalition, committee, or other state-level body, use the worksheet below to identify the essential elements from SPRC's [Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure](#) that your state currently has in place and/or that are missing from your state's suicide prevention infrastructure.

## Using the Tool

The minimum recommendations are noted with a green star and the advanced ones with a gold plus sign. This worksheet is designed to be printed and filled out as you assess your state's infrastructure.

Analyze the status of each recommendation in your state and circle it in the Status column as follows:

- A. Achieved (fully achieved and sustainable)
- B. In Action (significant progress has been made)
- C. Early Action (one or two steps have been taken)
- D. Planning
- E. Considering
- F. Not Considering

For each recommendation that is not completed, use the Rank column to rank the importance of developing it further in your state. A ranking of "1" should represent the most important recommendation for your state to address within each essential element. Recommendations with rankings of "1" should also represent recommendations you will aim to achieve in the near-term future. For any essential element recommendations already present in your state's infrastructure, leave the ranking box blank.



An example for completing the worksheet is on page 2, for the essential element Authorize.

Key Considerations for Ranking the Recommendations:

- Which needed recommendation(s) must be put in place before the other recommendation(s) can be fully addressed?
- Which needed recommendation(s) can your state body address now vs. in the distant future?
- For which needed recommendation(s) can you more easily gather state decision-maker support?



## Essential Element: Authorize

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Authorize web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
★ <b>Designate</b> a lead division or organization	A B C D E F		
★ <b>Identify and secure</b> resources required to carry out all six essential functions	A B C D E F	1	<i>We cannot address any other recommendations fully without securing funding first. We already have funding for some key programming, and for coalition meetings, but not for other aspects.</i>
★ <b>Maintain</b> a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3–5 years	A B C D E F	2	<i>We have a state plan, but it is outdated and needs updating.</i>
+ <b>Authorize</b> the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan	A B C D E F	4	
+ <b>Require</b> an annual report to the legislature or governor on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the extent and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs	A B C D E F	3	<i>We should build this into our process for updating our state plan.</i>

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★ <b>Maintain</b> a state suicide prevention plan that is updated every 3–5 years	A B C D E F		
+ <b>Authorize</b> the designated suicide prevention agency to develop, carry out, and evaluate the suicide prevention plan	A B C D E F		
+ <b>Require</b> an annual report to the legislature or governor on the state of suicide and prevention efforts, the extent and effectiveness of any statute or rule related to suicide, and emerging needs	A B C D E F		

## Essential Element: Lead

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Lead web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
★ <b>Maintain</b> a dedicated leadership position	A B C D E F		
★ <b>Identify and fund</b> core staff positions, training, and technology needed to carry out all six essential functions	A B C D E F		
★ <b>Develop capacity</b> to respond to information requests from officials, communities, the media, and the general public	A B C D E F		
+ <b>Where interests intersect</b> , establish a formal connection between the relevant government divisions or offices	A B C D E F		
+ <b>Build</b> staff capacity to effectively communicate across multiple audiences and formats	A B C D E F		
+ <b>Develop division/agency commitment</b> to spur cross-discipline collaboration and integrate programs across funding sources	A B C D E F		

## Essential Element: Partner

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Partner web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
<p>★ <b>Form</b> a statewide coalition with broad public and private sector representation</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		
<p>★ <b>Adopt</b> a shared vision and language across partners</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		
<p>+ <b>Build</b> partner capacity to integrate suicide prevention efforts into their structures, policies, and activities</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		
<p>+ <b>Develop</b> written agreements with partners detailing each party's commitment</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		

## Essential Element: Examine

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Examine web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
<p>★ <b>Ensure</b> that sufficient funding and personnel are allocated to support high-quality, consistent, privacy-protected suicide morbidity and mortality data collection and analysis</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>★ <b>Identify, connect with, and strengthen</b> existing data sources</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>★ <b>Ensure</b> that high-risk and underserved populations are represented in data collection</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>★ <b>Develop</b> the skills and a plan for regularly analyzing and using data to inform action at the state and local levels</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>+ <b>Link</b> data from different systems while protecting privacy</p>	A B C D E F		

## Essential Element: Build

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Build web page](#) open for reference.\*

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
<p>★ Build a multifaceted, lifespan approach to suicide prevention across the state, in concert with the state plan:</p> <p>» <b>Understand, develop, and enforce</b> expert-informed policies and regulations that support suicide prevention</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>» <b>Strengthen</b> the crisis system and policies, including mobile response and hotlines</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>» <b>Establish</b> policies and model practices in preparation for post-suicide response, including in the event of a suicide cluster</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>» <b>Promote</b> “upstream” strategies that proactively prevent suicide risk and enhance protective factors</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>★ <b>Designate</b> sufficient funding to carry out or support a multifaceted approach</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>★ <b>Cultivate</b> the ability to evaluate and share results</p>	A B C D E F		
<p>+ <b>Embed</b> expectations for suicide prevention within relevant state-funded contracts</p>	A B C D E F		

\* For this Essential Element (Build), analyze and rank each suicide prevention strategy listed under the first recommendation. Analyze and rank the subsequent recommendations as usual.

## Essential Element: Guide

Before you begin, we recommend that you have the [Guide web page](#) open for reference.

Recommendation	Status	Rank	Notes
<p>★ <b>Ensure</b> the ability to plan, provide, and evaluate consultation and capacity-building training for state, county, and local efforts</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		
<p>★ <b>Identify and allocate</b> resources needed to support consultation and capacity-building training for state, county, and local efforts</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		
<p>+ <b>Identify and maintain</b> an updated list of available trainings that meet relevant state requirements or recommendations</p>	<p>A B C D E F</p>		