

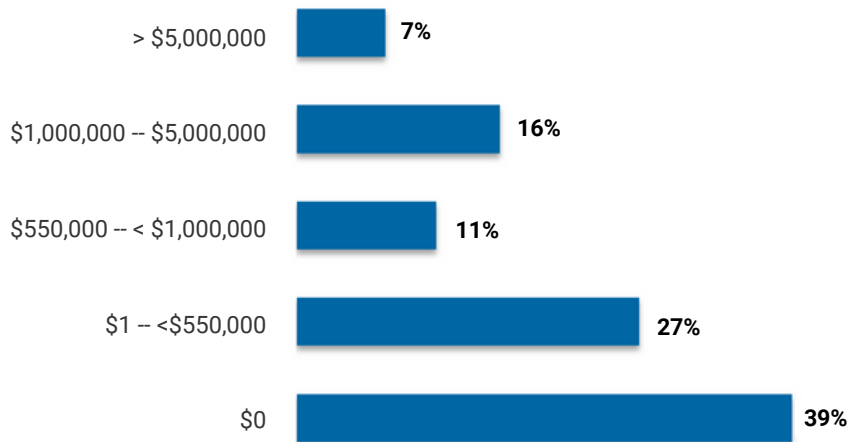


### Priority Area 1: Develop designated funding and capacity for suicide prevention

In 2022, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) conducted a State and Territorial Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (<http://ow.ly/BEgG50KxgfN>). Examining responses from 42 states and 2 territories, SPRC identified four priority areas for action to strengthen U.S. suicide prevention efforts. This PDF provides a summary of Priority Area 1.

State and territorial funding for suicide prevention is limited, with 39% of states and territories (17 of 44) lacking any designated budget line items for suicide prevention. Thirty-eight percent (17) of states and territories have annual budgets under \$1,000,000. Forty-one percent (18) of states and territories reported that they are either planning steps or actively working to develop state funding for suicide prevention. Figure 1 shows the dollar value of designated funding for suicide prevention.

**Figure 1: Value of State/Territorial Suicide Prevention Budget Line Items (N=44)**

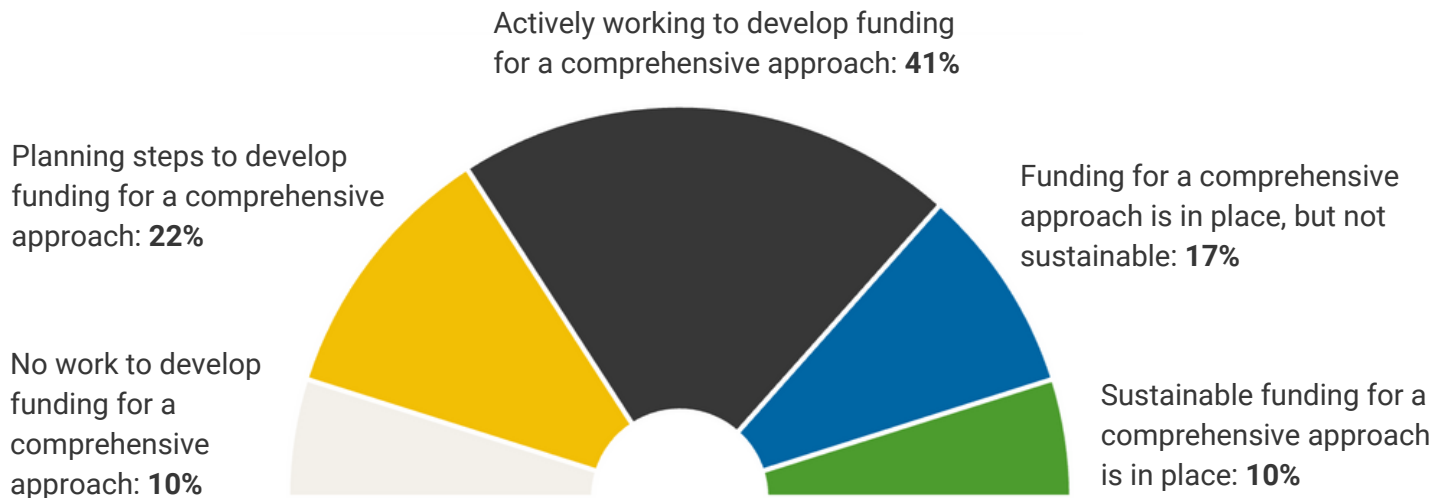


**"Our biggest challenge . . . is securing budgeted funds for programs and initiatives, as well as additional staffing, rather than rely[ing] on grants or one-time allocations"**  
— SNA Participant

States and territories described a heavy reliance on inconsistent funding to ensure administrative and staff needs were met, with 73% (30 of 41) reporting insufficient funding necessary to implement [a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention](#) across their state or territories (Figure 2). Eighty-six percent of states and territories (38 of 44) reported having a suicide prevention coordinator (or similar position) in place while 41% (18) did not fund any additional staff positions. States and territories described inconsistent funding sources restricting their abilities to hire, retain, and invest in staff capacity. Limitations in staff funding were seen as inhibiting abilities to carry out suicide prevention efforts.



**Figure 2: State/Territorial Progress toward Funding a Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention (N=41)**



**To strengthen suicide prevention efforts, the development of secure funding for staff positions and the implementation of a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention must be prioritized.**

### Funding and Capacity Development in Illinois

In 2004, Illinois enacted the Suicide Prevention, Education and Treatment Act. The act required the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to establish and provide technical support to a statewide public-private suicide prevention coalition, the Illinois Suicide Prevention Alliance, and tasked the alliance with developing and carrying out the state's suicide prevention plan. In 2019, non-governmental members of the alliance, led by the Illinois chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, successfully led a grassroots campaign to ask legislators to strengthen the act through the creation of a state-funded plan for suicide prevention. In 2021, the alliance developed a new suicide prevention plan, and the IDPH received a \$750,000 appropriation to support the rollout of statewide suicide prevention efforts consistent with the new plan. IDPH continues to seek federal funding to support strategies outlined in the 2020 Illinois Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan and collaborates with other state agencies that receive federal and state funding to ensure funded activities align with the state plan.

**To promote suicide prevention in your state, visit *SPRC's Recommendations for State Suicide Prevention Infrastructure* ([sprc.org/state-infrastructure](https://sprc.org/state-infrastructure)) and state pages ([sprc.org/states](https://sprc.org/states)).**