

## **Federal Funding for Utah Initiatives**

### ***SAMHSA National Strategy for Suicide Prevention***

In 2017, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health applied for and was awarded a SAMHSA funded grant, National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. The purpose of this program is to support states and communities in advancing efforts to prevent suicide and suicide attempts among adults age 25 and older in order to reduce the overall suicide rate and number of suicides in the U.S. nationally. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health had a particular focus on statewide implementation of “Zero Suicide”, a model developed and promoted by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Research Center. This grant officially ended September 29, 2020. A key strategy of statewide implementation of Zero Suicide was the Zero Suicide Learning Collaborative, in which approximately 30 agencies participated over the course of the grant. Under this grant, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health successfully funded and implemented structured follow-up within Salt Lake County (University of Utah Healthcare) and Carbon/Emery Counties (Four Corners Behavioral Health). Mini grants for lethal means reduction were also provided to 8 communities: Central Utah Counseling Center, Four Corners Behavioral Health, Northeastern Counseling Center, Salt Lake County Health Department, Southwest Behavioral Health, Spanish Fork City, Utah Navajo Health System, and Weber-Morgan Health Department.

### ***SAMHSA Project AWARE***

Utah Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education) is a SAMHSA grant awarded to USBE with DSAMH as an implementation partner. Utah Project AWARE supports student thriving, so each student may be safe, healthy, connected, and ready to learn. To accomplish this mission, Utah’s Project AWARE is dedicated to increasing student education on mental wellness, increasing youth resiliency through social emotional skill building in a classroom setting; increasing mental health screening for early identification, increasing adult training in mental wellness, intervention, and crisis response for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth; and connecting school-aged youth who may have behavioral health issues, and their families, to needed resources and services. The project includes some state level efforts, and targets three local education authorities: Alpine, Jordan, and Cache.

### ***SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith Grant***

The Garrett Lee Smith Grant is funded by SAMHSA to support states and tribal governments in implementing youth (ages 10-24) suicide prevention and early intervention strategies in schools, educational institutions, juvenile justice systems, substance use programs, mental health programs, foster care systems, and other youth-serving organizations. The Utah Youth Hope Project is funded through this grant, with a special focus on Northeastern Utah and Salt Lake City School District. The Utah Youth Hope Project aims to support upstream prevention

efforts, such as social-emotional learning; access to quality and appropriate follow up care for youth experiencing suicidal ideation or behaviors; and expanding postvention readiness throughout the state.

### ***SAMHSA Emergency Response to COVID-19***

In April 2020, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health applied for a SAMHSA grant to address emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant includes both mental health and substance use disorder services in response to COVID-19. Awarded on April 20, 2020, this grant has been extended to May 31, 2022.

### ***SAMHSA COVID-19 Emergency Response to Suicide Prevention***

In May 2020, the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health applied for and received a SAMHSA Covid Emergency Response Suicide Prevention Grant. This grant focuses on suicide prevention in underserved populations, victims of domestic violence and care transitions and follow-up from a suicide related discharge from the emergency department or in-patient hospitalization . The award begins July 31, 2020 and ends November 30, 2021.

### ***National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide***

While VA encourages Veterans to seek and use its services and benefits, the reality is that many Veterans do not engage with VA. To serve all Veterans, VA must build effective networks of support, communication, and care across the communities in which Veterans live and work every day. To accomplish this, VA has developed the [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide](#). The purpose of the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide is to provide a framework for identifying priorities, organizing efforts, and contributing to a national focus on Veteran suicide prevention over the next several years. <sup>1</sup>

The [Utah Department of Veteran Affairs](#) is working with an extensive network of community partners across the state to prevent suicide among all Veterans in Utah, including those who may never come to VA for care.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. (2018). National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide. Retrieved from [https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf)