

SUICIDE PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE OF EL PASO COUNTY

The Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County uses a collective impact approach to cultivate caring communities that are resilient, connected, and capable of supporting every person, regardless of the struggles they face.

CSHF 1 Grant since 2021

- Multiyear grant to support for Pike's Peak Community Health Partnership as the backbone organization for the collaborative and for implementation of the collaborative's action plan

I really believe that the collaborative itself and being a part of it has elevated members in the community. They were not in front of City Council talking about suicide 4-5 years ago. They are now.

MILESTONES

- * Built infrastructure and operations from the ground up and grew its membership to over 60 members representing 55 organizations
- * Created a comprehensive Community Suicide Prevention Action Plan with more than 50 tracked work group activities
- * Developed a community-informed communications strategy
- * Hosts community trainings on suicide risk and prevention strategies and trains collaborative members to facilitate trainings
- * Coordinated and facilitated two Suicide Prevention Summits
- * Became a credible community voice for suicide prevention and postvention that is called upon to present and consult



IMPACT

- * Increased referrals for suicide prevention trainings and interventions.
- * Built capacity for community leaders to hold trainings and provide resources. Trained 20 steering committee members to hold trainings.
- * Member agencies gained credibility and broadened their reach. One organization increased people served from 5,000 to 9,000 between 2022- 2023, citing exposure from the collaborative as the cause.
- * Trained 20+ media outlets on how to responsibly report on suicide.
- * 80% of PSA viewers felt motivated to change their firearm storage practices, and 90% felt comfortable having a conversation about it.
- * Trained 150 faith leaders in suicide prevention through the Soul Shop.
- * Partnered with local and state elected officials to support policies and legislation around mental health awareness, suicide prevention, intervention and postvention work in the community.

SUPPORT FROM CSHF

El Paso County organizations were acting independently, oftentimes reproducing or duplicating services. There wasn't a common language. What we've done with the collaborative is create a collaboration that this county has never seen before. Having all of our organizations branded underneath the collaborative symbolizes what is required for suicide prevention, which is about building a net of support versus just one single source of support.

I think this is a community that is much more informed on suicide prevention, I think there are more people who are aware of what resources exist than before, and I think there have been an increase in touch points and access points to services.

Having a neutral backbone organization has been key to our impact...[it] creates a space that is productive and clean. CSHF stepped in to support that large piece, which has been critical. We needed that to get buy-in.

