

# Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention Overview

## Veterans Affairs' Public Health Approach

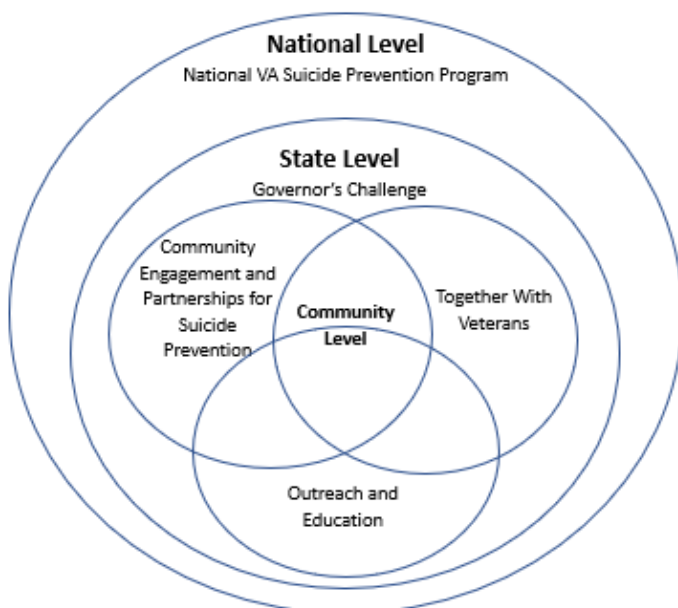
The loss of any individual to suicide cannot typically be explained by individual factors alone. The problem of suicide reflects a complex interaction of factors placing strain on individuals at the international level (e.g., wars, global pandemic), national level (e.g., economic disparities, health care policies), community level (e.g., employment rates, access to care), familial and relational level (e.g., level of support, relationship problems), and individual level (e.g., health concerns).

VA's 2018 *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide* defined a broad vision for implementation of a public health approach to end suicide. The Veterans Health Administration Suicide Prevention 2.0 (SP 2.0) Strategic Plan emerged to unify specific clinical services and advancements within VA across the national, regional, and local levels with community-based suicide prevention policy, plans, and services that national, state, and local levels.



## SP 2.0 Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention (CBI-SP)

The CBI-SP model aims to reach Veterans through multiple touchpoints. CBI-SP implementation will occur through FY2022 in a phased roll-out across VHA. CBI-SP initiatives include the Governor's Challenge, Together with Veterans and Community Engagement and Partnership for Suicide Prevention. Community Engagement and Partnership for Suicide Prevention involves a comprehensive strategy to hire and train qualified Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinators (CEPC) and Community-Based Interventions Program Managers (PM), who will collaborate at the community, regional and state levels, to support community coalition building for evidence-informed suicide prevention interventions specific to each locality's Veteran population. This model strengthens VA's focus on high-risk individuals in health care settings while embracing cross-agency collaborations and community partnerships to meet Veterans where they live, work, and thrive.



**Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention (CBI-SP) serves as unifying model, from national to community levels, for all community-based efforts to end Veteran suicide.**

- *The Governor's Challenge* is a collaboration with VA and SAMHSA where state policy makers partner with local leaders to implement a comprehensive suicide prevention plan.
- *Together with Veterans* is focused on Veteran-to-Veteran coalition building and Veteran leadership development for suicide prevention.
- *Community Engagement and Partnerships for Suicide Prevention (VISN Expansion)* is focused on facilitating community coalition building for suicide prevention

*Outreach and Education provides SAVE, VHA facility partnerships, events, etc. through local Suicide Prevention Coordinators (SPCs) and does not change their critical role.*

For more information, please contact the National CBI-SP Program at: [VHASPPCBISP@va.gov](mailto:VHASPPCBISP@va.gov)

Community-Based Interventions are critical to the health and wellness of the Veterans we serve and involves partnering with and supporting multiple programs.

### **Program Implementation**

CBI-SP serves to enhance and expand current VA suicide prevention efforts that are facilitated by Suicide Prevention Coordinators (SPCs), who are significant clinical supports and provide outreach and education to internal and external stakeholders. Consequently, the CBI-SP program expands Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) capacity to engage in community-based suicide prevention efforts. Here, PMs and CEPCs collaborate at the community, regional and state levels to implement CBI-SP through facilitation of community coalitions.

CEPCs serve as subject matter experts in public health approaches, coalition development and facilitation, and other community-based models for suicide prevention concerning Veteran needs. They collaboratively work with key stakeholders to develop, facilitate, and strengthen CBI-SP at community, state, and VISN levels. CEPCs actively involve existing VA initiatives, including PREVENTS, Governor’s Challenge and Together with Veterans. **The CBI-SP Program emphasizes Veteran suicide prevention through a public health model based in facilitated community engagement and collaborative action.**

In alignment with the National Strategy, the CBI-SP unifying model promotes the following three focused priority areas:

## **Focused Priority Areas Across CBI-SP Unifying Model**



**Identify Service Members, Veterans, and their Families and Screen for Suicide Risk**



**Promote Connectedness and Improve Care Transitions**



**Increase Lethal Means Safety and Safety Planning**

For additional information about Veteran suicide, please see [VA’s 2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#).

**Please contact your Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator to collaboratively build a safer community for all Veterans!**

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