

## Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention

Creating Sustainable Approaches to Youth Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention

### Request for Grant Applications

**North Central Health Services (NCHS)** is committed to providing healthcare and promoting healthy communities for the benefit of citizens in Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties. Since 1999, NCHS has awarded over \$100 million in grant funding through over 675 grants to more than 225 different organizations in the NCHS service area.

Beyond its Community Benefit Capital Grant program, NCHS also initiates strategic partnerships with coalitions, funders, nonprofits, and other entities to directly address the most critical community health needs identified by the NCHS and River Bend Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment. These NCHS-initiated Community Benefit Partnerships fund the launch, expansion, or strengthening of programs and services that improve health outcomes and develop healthy communities.

As a funder that prioritizes grant impact in the areas of mental health improvement and substance abuse, NCHS seeks to assist K12 youth-serving organizations in developing youth resiliency through life skills development, drug resistance, and mental well-being.

**NCHS is announcing an opportunity for K12 Youth Serving Organizations in North Central Indiana to receive training, support, and resources focused on system-level, youth mental health promotion and suicide prevention through the Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention (PYSP) initiative.** NCHS is partnering with the Education Development Center (EDC) to provide an opportunity for organizations to learn the knowledge, skills, and best practices needed to integrate suicide prevention within their daily practices. A core focus of PYSP will include linking ongoing life skill development and youth wellness initiatives with long-term suicide prevention outcomes. Participating organizations will receive a small grant of \$5,000 in calendar year 2026 to support the implementation of PYSP in their organizations.

Nineteen school corporations in the Greater Lafayette region have previously joined NCHS and EDC to participate in the [Preventing Youth Suicide Initiative \(PYSI\)](#) focused on mental health and suicide prevention within school systems. **Due to PYSI's success and impact in preparing schools to prevent youth suicide, NCHS is seeking to engage a minimum of 5 K12 youth-serving organizations committed to expanding this work to youths' out-of-school time.**

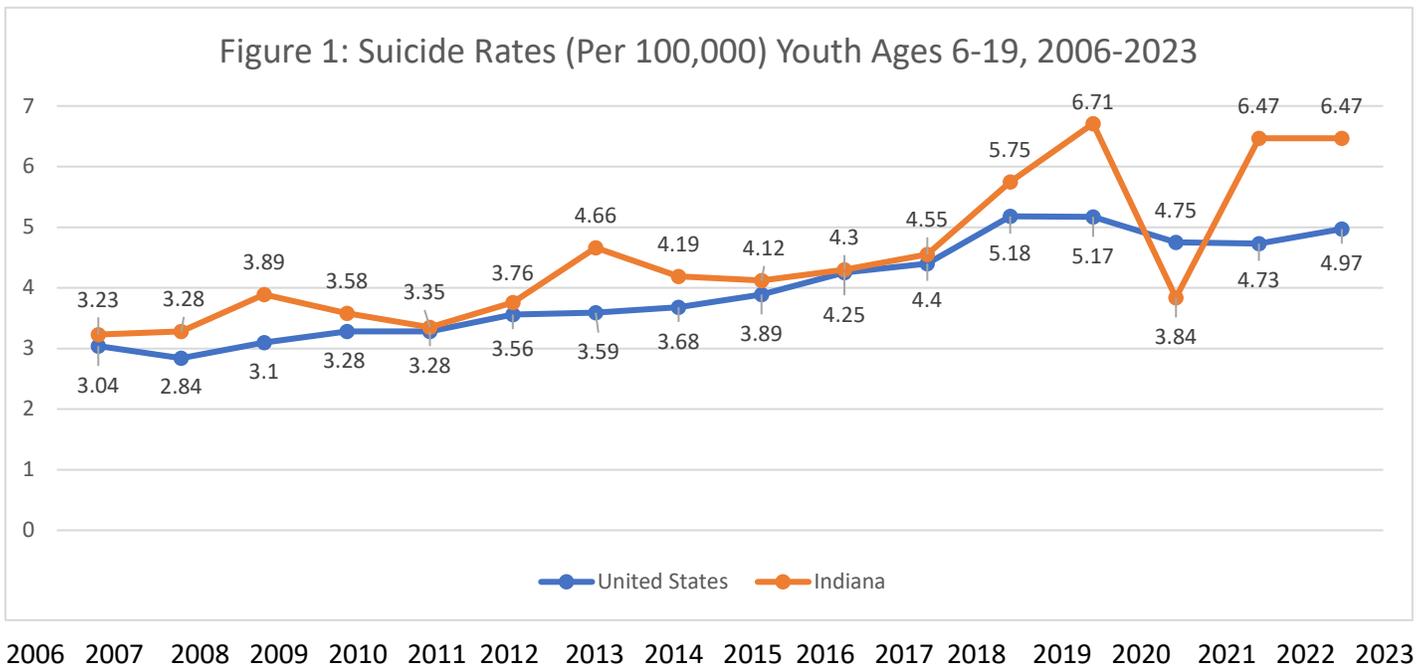
NCHS will provide full funding for this opportunity and EDC will provide training and systems-level support to help K12 youth-serving organizations build robust, evidence-based suicide prevention efforts. These efforts may include the creation of suicide prevention and 'after a suicide death' protocols, organization investment in understanding suicide risk and how to intervene and support those at risk for suicide, and/or strategies to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for suicide through ongoing K12 youth wellness and life skill development efforts. **Small grants in the amount of \$5,000 will be provided directly to K12 youth-serving organizations to support their rollout of PYSP.**

### Background

Suicide risk in youth ages 6-19 has increased significantly in the past 17 years with Indiana youth suicide rates outpacing national youth suicide rates (Figure 1)<sup>1</sup>. Post the COVID-19 pandemic, small decreases in national youth suicide rates were observed; however, these rates have increased once again and still remain significantly above youth suicide rates in the early 2000s.<sup>1,2</sup> While young-youth suicides remain rare, the suicide rate for children ages 6-11 has increased 81% during this time period.<sup>3</sup> In the 2022 Indiana Youth Survey (IYS), 36 percent of Indiana 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students reported feeling sad or hopeless in the past year, 17 percent reported considering attempting suicide, and twelve percent reported making a suicide plan<sup>3</sup>. These rates are similar to the 2020 IYS outcomes<sup>4,5</sup>.

**Suicide is a growing issue in our youth:**

- From 2006 (3.04/100,00) to 2023 (4.97/100,000), the US suicide rate increased by 63% for youth 6-19 years old.
- From 2006 (3.23/100,000) to 2023 (6.47/100,000), the Indiana suicide rate increased 100% for youth 6-19 years old.



In Indiana, suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause for death for youth ages 6-19 behind only unintentional injuries and homicides<sup>6</sup>.

Several factors may increase a young person’s risk for suicide, including mental health disorders and substance use, prior suicide attempts, challenges in executive functioning, access to lethal means, and adverse childhood experiences, including family conflict and violence<sup>7</sup>. Protective factors that can buffer against these risks include life skills; positive connections to peers, trusted adults, and school systems; and family and school engagement<sup>8</sup>.

### What does research tell us about how we can work to prevent youth suicide?

- While every suicide cannot be stopped, suicide is preventable
- All community members can learn [the warning signs of suicide](#) and understand their unique roles in supporting youth who are at risk for suicide<sup>9,10</sup>

- Suicide prevention protocols can guide the community in responding effectively to suicide risk and deaths by suicide and ensuring youth receive needed support
- Implementing a variety of prevention strategies (*a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention*) has been shown to reduce youth suicide rates<sup>11</sup>
- Organizations can invest in youth life skills development and create environments which reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for suicide<sup>12</sup>
- Community-wide investment in prevention activities across sectors and settings increases effectiveness of youth-focused suicide prevention efforts<sup>13,14,15</sup>

### ***How will the initiative work?***

EDC is focused on integrating mental health and suicide prevention within organizations' daily practices to ensure that communities can more effectively prevent suicide. This systemwide approach includes investments in youth life skill development, addressing risk and protective factors for suicide, the development of protocols to guide staff actions when responding to suicide risk and crisis, and ongoing collaboration with community partners (see Figure 2). These key strategies for systemwide suicide

prevention have been adapted from EDC's [Multi-Tiered Suicide Prevention for Schools framework](#) for out-of-school settings. Drawing from current research, best practices in community-level suicide prevention, and real-world implementation of MTSP through the PYSI initiative, EDC and NCHS seek to support K12 youth-serving organizations in coordinating and aligning their youth suicide prevention efforts with local schools and creating community-wide safety nets that better prevent suicide and promote youths' overall wellbeing.<sup>11,12,13,14,15</sup>

**Figure 2: Key Strategies for Systemwide Suicide Prevention**

1. Engaging organization staff and volunteers in suicide prevention planning, training, and communication
2. Developing community partnerships to ensure students receive necessary support and services
3. Promoting protective factors that enhance youth wellbeing
4. Creating policies and protocols for helping youth who are at risk of suicide
5. Creating policies and protocols for response after a suicide
6. Identification and support of youth who are at-risk of suicide

**This initiative will guide participating organizations through training, preparation, and implementation of best practice, youth wellbeing promotion and suicide prevention strategies from April 2026 – December 2026.** K12 Youth serving organizations will first join NCHS and EDC for an in-person train-the-trainer in the Spring of 2026 (exact date TBD based on participants' availability). At this training, participants will receive access to a new PYSI Toolkit and be trained on how to roll out the toolkit contents and implement ongoing professional development, implementation, and continuous quality improvement within their organizations. Following the in-person training, all K12 youth-serving organizations will receive ongoing technical assistance and support from EDC, resources, peer-learning opportunities, and best practice guidance on developing and/or updating policies and protocols for suicide risk and implementing suicide prevention strategies within their daily practices. Aspects of continuous quality improvement, such as identifying progress measures, and collecting and applying data to show long-term impact on suicide, will be included in the technical assistance. Details on the time commitment required for PYSI implementation, in-person training, and ongoing technical assistance are provided below. Figure 3 provides an overview of the stages of PYSI implementation.

**Figure 3: PYSP Core Project Implementation Steps**



### **Core PYSP Grant Project Activities and Resources:**

 **PYSP Toolkit:** An evidence-informed PYSP toolkit developed by EDC will be shared and made available to all PYSP initiative organizations. This toolkit will provide up-to-date, best practice information on promoting protective factors against suicide; increasing organization preparedness to identify and support youth at risk for suicide; increasing organization preparedness to support youth after a suicide loss; developing, updating, and maintaining best practice policies and protocols related to suicide risk response intervention; and resources and guidance for ongoing staff professional development in suicide prevention.

 **In-Person Train the Trainer:** The Train the Trainer will occur in Spring 2026 (exact date TBD based on participating organization availability). Each participating organization will be required to join the Spring 2026 Train-the-Trainer program. This full-day training will provide organizations with best practices in youth suicide prevention, an introduction to the PYSP Toolkit, and train the trainer in applying the toolkit contents to daily practices, policy creation, and professional development. Participating organizations will be encouraged to send a small implementation team of 2-3 individuals to the training to increase the sustainability of the train-the-trainer content.

 **Team Technical Assistance:** As teams engage in this initiative, EDC will assign Technical Assistance (TA) leads to each organization. Through bimonthly virtual meetings and on-demand support from May-November, this TA will include the following:

- Tailored guidance on the 6 Key Areas of Investment for Systemwide Suicide Prevention
- Tools and resources to assist teams in implementing toolkit contents within their organizations
- Expert recommendations and guidance for creating, updating, and sustaining policies and protocols for responding to suicide risk and/or suicide deaths
- Expert recommendations and guidance for developing and implementing professional development plans centered on the PYSP toolkit and organizational policies and protocols
- Expert recommendations and guidance for addressing real-world challenges and barriers to preventing youth suicide and promoting protective factors against suicide in organizations

 **Peer learning and engagement:** Two, 1-hour, peer learning webinars will be held in the Summer and Fall of 2026 (exact dates TBD based on participating organization availability). These virtual meetings will provide interactive sessions for knowledge and skill acquisition on the key components of the PYSP toolkit. These interactive sessions will provide participating organizations with the opportunity to connect with one another through facilitated conversations focused on PYSP toolkit application and be led by a range of subject-matter experts from EDC. Each participating organization team will be required to join the two virtual peer learning webinars.

**Figure 4: Estimated Time Commitment for PYSP Implementation:**

Activities	Date/Time Range	Estimated Time Per Team Member	Description/Purpose
<b>PYSP In-Person Training</b>	April 2026	Full Day	In-person training to be held in Lafayette. <i>Will provide core training in PYSP toolkit.</i>
<b>Policy/Protocol Updates</b>	May-September 2026	10-12 hours total over lifetime of project	Organization teams will lead updates with technical assistance review, feedback, and support from EDC. <i>Will support organization preparedness to identify and support youth at risk of suicide following best practices.</i>
<b>Organizational Professional Development in PYSP</b>	May-November 2026	10-12 hours total over lifetime of project	Organization teams will lay out plans for providing staff PD on the PYSP toolkit and associated policies/protocols with technical assistance review, feedback, and support from EDC. <i>Will support the organization's ability to address environmental risk and protective factors for suicide and promote overall youth wellbeing.</i>
<b>Continuous Quality Improvement Meetings</b>	May-November 2026	1 hour every other month (4 hours total)	Organization teams will meet with EDC technical assistance specialists bimonthly to discuss policy/protocol and PYSP toolkit real-world application and identify challenges to address, successes to celebrate, and areas for improvement. <i>Will support organization ability to identify and address challenges in real world application.</i>
<b>Peer Learning Webinars</b>	June-October 2026	1 hour for each webinar (2 hours total)	Organization teams will participate in two peer learning webinars where they can connect with fellow organizations participating in PYSP. <i>Will support organizations in continued education on best practices in suicide prevention and provide an opportunity for connecting and building relationships across youth serving organizations in Greater Lafayette.</i>
<b>Post Assessment and Sustainability Planning</b>	November-December 2026	3 hours total	Organizations will complete a short post assessment to show PYSP growth and will complete a short sustainability plan to maintain PYSP toolkit application in the future. <i>Will support organizations in identifying continued areas of growth and success and key recurring actions to ensure sustainability of PYSP.</i>

This project is estimated to take the average team member 30-35 hours over the course of 2026.

### ***NCHS Grant Opportunity Eligibility and Expectations***

NCHS is offering K12 youth serving organizations in North Central Indiana a grant opportunity that will include technical assistance; toolkit delivery and training; and planning, implementing, and sustaining suicide prevention efforts. Organizations directly serving K12 youth through out-of-school services in North Central Indiana are invited to apply. Organizations must have two years of financial history and financial statements, be a registered 501C3s, Faith Institutions, Foundations, or Extension Offices and physically located in Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and/or White County to apply. *School corporations are not eligible to apply. Organizations physically located outside of North Central Indiana are not eligible to apply.* Organizations partnering with schools formerly or currently engaged in the [PYSI grant program funded by NCHS](#) are encouraged to coordinate with schools on their PYSI toolkit implementation. NCHS must receive a minimum of five quality applications to launch the Initiative.

All K12 youth-serving organizations in the Indiana counties of Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties who are not schools are eligible to apply and should apply under one of the following categories:

- Non-Profit
- Faith Institution
- Foundation
- Extension Office
- Other (Please Explain)

Applicants are encouraged to form a PYSI implementation team of 2-3 individuals to attend the PYSI Train the Trainer, lead policy and protocol development, and implement PYSI toolkit professional development within their systems from May to December 2026. Each team should be committed to participate in the PYSI Train the Trainer, bi-monthly technical assistance meetings, and two peer-learning webinars. Teams should also be willing to commit to internal team time ([as described in Figure 4 above](#)) to lead PYSI toolkit professional development and implementation, policy and protocol updates, and sustainability planning within their individual systems. We understand that turnover occurs and that many youth-serving organizations may be operating with limited staff. We encourage each applicant to identify 2-3 team member 'roles/positions' to have represented throughout the grant for the greatest impact. If forming a team of 2-3 members presents a significant barrier to participating in PYSI for your organization, please contact Michelle Kreinbrook ([Michelle.Kreinbrook@nchsi.com](mailto:Michelle.Kreinbrook@nchsi.com)) and Shawna Hite-Jones ([sdhite-jones@edc.org](mailto:sdhite-jones@edc.org)) to discuss the fit of this opportunity with your organization's capacity to participate. NCHS and EDC aim to encourage as many organizations as possible to participate and will provide support for your participation in PYSI as needed.

### **The recommended composition of each organization team is as follows:**

- 1 organizational leader (e.g., CEO, Executive Director, COO) with policymaking and decision-making authority
- 1 programmatic staff or volunteer (e.g., instructor, trainer, program manager, coach, camp lead).
- Organizations are also encouraged to engage youth, family members, and/or other invested participants from the community such as school districts currently or formally involved in the PYSI initiative

While 2-3 team members are recommended at a minimum, each organization is welcome to engage more staff as appropriate who can support toolkit application and policy and protocol development.

**Please note the implementation team should NOT be composed of short-term or contractual staff or volunteers** (e.g., camp counselors or after-school volunteers only associated with an organization for a few weeks or months) as these individuals lack the historical knowledge key to implementation. Short-term or transient staff and volunteers will, however, be reached by the PYSP implementation team's systemwide efforts and can assist with-- rather than lead-- implementation activities.

## GRANT PROJECT FUNDS

**Each participating organization will receive \$5,000 to support the implementation of PYSP.** Details on eligible and ineligible expenses are provided below. Each participating K12-serving organization will work with EDC TA Specialists in Spring/Summer 2026 to develop a budget for spending the \$5,000 that aligns with the following guidelines below.

**Eligible Expenses:** Funds can be used for the following:

- Stipends for PYSP implementation team members and/or broader staff or volunteers engaged in PYSP. Stipend amounts should not exceed \$500 per individual for core PYSP team members or \$250 per person for broader staff or volunteers engaged in PYSP but not part of the core team.
- Travel expense reimbursements related to attending the PYSP Train the Trainer in Lafayette, Indiana, in April 2026. All estimated travel reimbursement costs should follow the government per diem rates for Lafayette, Indiana. Please note that breakfast and lunch will be provided at the PYSP Train the Trainer and do not need to be factored into the budget. Other meals and/or overnight stays may be factored in for those traveling to Lafayette from surrounding counties.
  - [Access GSA Rates for Lafayette, IN, Hotel and Food/Beverage here.](#)
  - [Access GSA Mileage Rates here.](#)
- Materials/Supplies needed to apply PYSP Toolkit within organization. Examples of materials to purchase include (but are not limited to):
  - Materials for formalizing and distributing policies and protocols (e.g. handouts, magnets, magnet boards, flow charts, laminate sheets, folders, paper, printing, etc.)
  - Materials for implementation team meetings (e.g. folders, paper, printing, pens, etc.,)
  - Materials for communicating on mental health and suicide prevention within your organization (e.g. 988 cards, booklet of mental health resources for distribution, etc.)
  - Technology for continuous quality improvement or communication related to PYSP (e.g. annual Survey Monkey license, 3-month subscription to Constant Contact, etc.,)
  - Printed copies of PYSP Toolkit (*PYSP implementation team members will receive a printed copy of the PYSP toolkit at the Train the Trainer in April 2026 and receive access to a digital copy for ongoing distribution.*)
- Compensation incentives to thank/show appreciation for core PYSP implementation team members and broader community volunteers engaged in PYSP activities. Incentives can include:
  - Food/beverage purchased to have available at PYSP implementation team meetings and/or PYSP PD days in your organization. Food/beverage costs should not exceed \$35 per person per event.
  - Small gift cards or gifts for broader community staff and volunteers engaged in PYSP activities (e.g. Gift card, flower pot, candy, etc.) Gifts should not exceed \$20 per person.

**EDC's PYSP Train the Trainer event, support, and technical assistance does not need to be reflected in a future budget as NCHS is providing full funding for these costs.**

**Ineligible Expenses** include staff salaries, indirect costs, equipment (e.g., laptops), and wrap-around booster expenses such as bringing in one-time, external speakers.

### **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

Eligible organizations are encouraged to complete the brief application below.

Grant recipients are required to attend the PYSP Train the Trainer, bi-monthly TA meetings, two peer learning webinars, and to complete a brief post survey and progress report at the end of the project period to demonstrate what the organization has accomplished with this program. *An application template is provided on page 8 below.*

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## **PARTNERS IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT APPLICATION**

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### ***Application Deadline: September 5th, 2025***

Successful applications will describe a need for PYSP within their community; commitment to the process for training, applying, and sustaining a systemwide approach to suicide prevention; and an implementation team representative of key voices from their organization. Grant funds must be used during the grant project period: April 2026 – December 2026.

NCHS will notify applicants of grant approvals in late Fall 2025.

### ***Application Submission***

1. *Please email* a copy of this completed application form and any supporting documents to [michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com](mailto:michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com) by *September 5th, 2025*.
2. *If unable to email, please mail* a copy of this completed application form and the supporting documents to *North Central Health Services, c/o Michelle Kreinbrook, 2900 North River Road, West Lafayette, IN, 47906* with a postmark no later than *September 5, 2025*.

### ***Applicant Information***

<b>Organization Legal Name</b> Provide the legal name of the organization as it should be written on a grant payment check	
<b>Main Office</b> Mailing Address Phone Number	
<b>Tax Identification Number</b>	
<b>Primary Contact</b> First & Last Name Title Mailing Address Phone Number E-mail Address	

<p><b>Grant Payment Contact</b>          Person to whom NCHS should forward grant payment, <i>if different than the Primary Contact</i>          First &amp; Last Name          Title          Mailing Address          Phone Number          E-mail Address</p>	
<p><b>Organization Type</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Non-Profit</b></li> <li>• <b>Foundation</b></li> <li>• <b>Faith Institution</b></li> <li>• <b>Extension Office</b></li> <li>• <b>Other (Please Explain)</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Region(s) and/or County(ies) served by your organization</b></p>	
<p><b>Total Number of Annual Youth Reached</b>          Total number of K12 youth engaged in activities/reached with direct services annually</p>	
<p><b>Grade Levels of Youth Reached</b>          Please describe the primary grade levels served by your organization (e.g. elementary school, middle-school, high school)</p>	
<p><b>Type of Service(s) Provided to Youth</b>          In no more than 5 sentences, please describe the direct services provided to youth</p>	

## Narrative

*Text boxes will expand as you type. Many of the questions below identify specific items that may be included in your response. These are meant to help frame your thinking but should not prevent you from discussing additional items or considerations as well.*

### ***Please name your proposed team for the Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention (PYSP) Initiative***

The recommended composition of each team is as follows (at minimum):

- 1 organizational leader (e.g., CEO, Executive Director, COO) with policymaking and decision-making authority
- 1 programmatic staff or volunteer (e.g., instructor, trainer, program manager, coach, camp lead)
- Organizations are also encouraged to engage youth, family members, and/or other invested participants from the community such as school districts within the initiative

While 2-3 team members are recommended at a minimum, each organization is welcome to engage more staff as appropriate who can support toolkit application and policy and protocol development. If you are interested in this opportunity, but engaging a team of 2-3 individuals presents a barrier to participation, please connect with Michelle Kreinbrook ([michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com](mailto:michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com)) and Shawna Hite-Jones ([sdhite-jones@edc.org](mailto:sdhite-jones@edc.org)) to discuss options for applying.

Name (if known)	Role	Administrative Authority (yes/no)

***Please describe why you want to apply to this initiative. Why is PYSP needed within your organization and/or wider community at this time? Please share relevant information or data that demonstrates local need.***

*Please describe what you hope to accomplish by joining this initiative. Which of the six key areas of investment for systemwide suicide prevention listed on page 3, Figure 2 are priorities for your organization?*

*Please describe any barriers currently faced when promoting student mental health or implementing suicide prevention efforts within your organization/community.*

## Applicant Signature

<b>Organization Legal Name</b>	
<b>Applicant Name</b>	
<b>Applicant Title</b>	
<b>Applicant Signature</b>	
<b>Date of Signature</b>	

## Supporting Documents

- € Documentation of current non-profit status
- € Letter of support or endorsement from your CEO, Executive Director, or other senior leader
- € (If Applicable) Copy of most recent suicide prevention, intervention, and/or postvention (after a suicide death) policies and protocols

*Information contained in the grant application will not be shared beyond NCHS or its partners.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We encourage you to contact us with questions about the grant opportunity at [michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com](mailto:michelle.kreinbrook@nchsi.com) or (765) 423-1604.

## REFERENCES

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