

Listening Session Executive Summary

2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

Introduction

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) held a Tribal Listening Session on the 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) on January 4, 2024. The listening session provided an opportunity for SAMHSA to share information about the NSSP and engage with Tribal Leaders and Tribal Behavioral Health professionals on critical issues related to suicide prevention among American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Background

A new National Strategy was requested by the White House to develop new goals and objectives to reduce suicides in the United States. The 2024 NSSP will also include a federal action plan, which reflects agency commitments to implementing pieces of the strategy. SAMHSA, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a virtual listening session on January 4th regarding the strategic direction and goals of the 2024 NSSP, including how best to communicate and implement this strategy with Tribal Leaders and Tribal Behavioral Health professionals. This document summarizes key messages and potential next steps that were shared during the virtual listening session.

Key Messages/Themes that emerged from participants in the listening session

- Ensure approaches are trauma-informed, resiliency-focused, and strength-based when working with Tribal communities
- Maintain the promotion of traditional behavioral health services
- Ensure Tribal traditions and cultures are appreciated when designing interventions
- Ensure Tribal lived experience, including peer community support, is incorporated into the narrative development
- Ensure that those who have field experience in Tribal communities are engaged early and more frequently when developing strategy
- Consider the role of specific occupations in the strategy (e.g., first responders such as Emergency Medical Technicians)
- Consider the effect of environmental interventions and policies targeting alcohol on suicide prevention

Next Steps

- SAMHSA, in coordination with CDC, will release the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention in 2024.
- SAMHSA will provide an information session to Tribes and Tribal organizations to discuss the completed strategy further and describe the input that was incorporated from the January 4, 2024, listening session.
- SAMHSA will develop a toolkit of resources to support the strategy.
- SAMHSA will provide an update at the next Tribal Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) in-person meeting.