

Request for Applications: Shared Strategies for Well-Being and Resilience Learning Community (2026-2027)

Addressing the Intersection of ACEs, Suicide, Overdose, and Mental Health Concerns

Background

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with CDC funding, is launching the **Shared Strategies for Well-Being and Resilience Learning Community**. This opportunity will strengthen state health agency capacity to address the interconnected challenges of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), suicide, overdose, and mental health concerns.

This learning community builds upon ASTHO's [Roadmap](#) and [Action Guide](#) to Shared Strategies that Promote Well-Being and Resilience, which highlight evidence-informed approaches for advancing cross-cutting prevention strategies. ASTHO will select **up to four state health agencies** to participate in this new learning community from **November 2026-July 2027**, which brings together leadership and program staff across multiple areas to strengthen collaboration, align priorities, and advance prevention efforts through a shared-strategies approach.

- **Request for Application Released:** Sept. 3, 2026
- **Due Date:** Oct. 16, 2026
- **Selection:** Oct. 26, 2026
- **Participants Notified:** Oct. 29, 2026
- **For questions, please reach out to** sbh@astho.org.

Overview

ASTHO's Shared Strategies for Well-Being and Resilience Learning Community aims to increase state health agency capacity for the primary prevention of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health concerns.

Purpose

- Support jurisdictions in developing and implementing action plans that advance shared strategies to prevent ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health concerns.
- Promote sustainable systems, policies, and practices that address the intersecting root causes of these important public health priorities.
- Increase health agency capacity in key areas identified through the [Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Capacity Assessment Tool](#) (SPACECAT).
- Foster peer learning and collaboration among state health agency program areas and relevant health agency partners.
- Strengthen cross-program partnerships that support integrated prevention approaches.

Benefits

- Develop actionable strategies that can be implemented and sustained beyond the learning community period.

- Access subject matter experts and resources from ASTHO, state, federal, national, and other partners.
- Receive technical assistance tailored to your state's goals, priorities, and needs.
- Strengthen internal partnerships across programs and leadership levels.
- Learn from peer jurisdictions implementing innovative prevention approaches.

Commitment

- Identify at least one health agency leadership staff member and any additional staff members/external partners representing relevant program areas (e.g., ACEs, suicide, overdose, mental health, behavioral health, injury, and maternal and child health). Consider building a cross-agency and multidisciplinary team that can help build a coalition prepared to act on the selected strategy.
- Create and begin to implement an action plan focused on advancing one of the shared prevention strategies (e.g., economic supports, foundational supports, built environment, and trauma response efforts).
- Participate in all learning community activities, including:
 - One virtual kickoff convening in **November 2026** (approximately 90 minutes).
 - Up to three individual state calls (approximately 60 minutes each).
 - Up to two peer-to-peer calls based on technical assistance needs (approximately 60 minutes each).
 - One two-day in-person convening in **April 2027** with up to five total participants from your state (location to be announced). ASTHO will cover travel costs.
 - One virtual close-out convening in **July 2027** (approximately 90 minutes).

Strategies

Participating state teams will identify one primary goal and select one of the following strategies to advance that goal during the learning community.

Table 1: Understanding Strategies to Address the Intersection

Strategy	Description
Strengthening Economic Supports for Families	Strengthening economic supports for families enables them to better afford housing, child care, healthy food, and medical care. It can also help stabilize families by protecting their jobs/income and reducing stress while they care for themselves, children, or family members.
Strengthening Community and Home Environments	Where people live shapes their health and well-being. Ensuring that household and neighborhood environments are safe and nurturing is critical for helping all ages thrive.
Ensuring Strong Foundational Supports for Children and Families	Early childhood experiences set the foundation for lifelong health and well-being, as children's environments and relationships shape how their brains and bodies develop. As children and adolescents enter school, they also benefit from ongoing resources and support within or attached to the school system, including opportunities to build skills to navigate life challenges.
Strengthening Supports to Lessen the Impact of and	When traumatic experiences occur, it is critical to ensure that effective interventions are in place to address those experiences

Prevent Future Traumatic Experiences	and reduce the likelihood of future risk — for these individuals and their children (i.e., any potential generational trauma).
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The selected strategies will help shape ASTHO’s technical assistance (TA) throughout the learning collaborative. ASTHO’s TA will support states in advancing their selected strategies while strengthening key public health competencies, including data, partnerships, policy, workforce development, and sustainable funding. Examples of general TA may include:

- [Completing the SPACECAT](#) and interpreting results.
- [Mapping stakeholders](#) and developing a plan for engaging each stakeholder.
- [Creating effective messaging](#) and planning future communications.
- [Assessing partners](#) and analyzing results.
- [Determining policy priorities](#).

Additional TA specific to the unique aspects of strategy implementation will also be made available to states by bringing in subject matter experts.

Application Process

Participation is open to all state health agencies interested in advancing prevention work at the intersection of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health concerns.

Applications will be reviewed based on:

- Demonstrated commitment to addressing the intersection of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health concerns.
- Presence of a multidisciplinary team, including health agency program leadership participation.
- Clearly defined goals and anticipated outcomes.
- Readiness to engage in learning community activities.

Please fill out this [survey](#) to submit your application.

The application will contain the following questions:

1. Name
2. Title (Optional)
3. Email
4. State Health Agency
5. Provide your proposed learning community team members and their roles.
6. Describe your state's goal for participating in this learning community.
7. Which shared strategy will your team focus on, and why? (Optional)
 - a. [Strengthening Economic Supports for Families](#)
 - b. [Ensuring Strong Foundational Supports for Children and Families](#)
 - c. [Strengthening Community and Home Environments](#)
 - d. [Lessening the Impact of and Preventing Traumatic Experiences](#)
8. Describe any current or planned efforts related to ACEs, suicide, overdose, and/or mental health that this work will build upon.
9. What barriers or challenges are limiting progress toward this goal? (Optional)