

American Association of Suicidology Impact-Made Strategic Plan (2026-2029)

Members of AAS feel connected and supported by the AAS Community

1. Engage in community development to ensure AAS is viewed as the “Big Tent” where all perspectives and roles in suicide prevention are valued
2. Build a robust membership of individuals and organizational members who feel connected to AAS
3. Increase the number of conference attendees and the percentage of conference attendees who are AAS members
4. Increase the national visibility of AAS as a resource with partner entities and in the public domain

Research informs suicide prevention practice, program development, and policy change.

1. Plan and execute a robust annual conference that connects research to practice while uniting the field
2. Increase utilization of the Journal by membership to inform practice
3. Educate the public utilizing impactful social media messaging
4. Develop a content-rich members-only newsletter to serve the mission of connecting research to practice
5. Engage in public dialogue in a manner that educates and elevates best practice suicide prevention practices and policies
6. Ensure the website provides services as a valuable resource, as evidenced by increased public engagement

Professionals are equipped with suicide-specific knowledge and skills to prevent, intervene, and provide meaningful postvention responses.

1. Increase the number of Crisis Specialist Certified by AAS
2. Enhance Training Catalog
3. Launch Psychological Autopsy Certification
4. Increase attendance in Death Investigation Training
5. Partner with population-specific entities to develop identity-based resources

Communities utilize population-specific, research-informed, culturally inclusive suicide-prevention practices

1. Create and staff “Communities of Practice” to identify and elevate impactful approaches
2. Address the needs of county and state-level suicide prevention entities to prevent suicide in their service areas
3. Advance state legislation that requires the use of psychological autopsies/suicide death investigations and the annual release of statewide suicide data publication
4. Develop partnership agreements with population-specific suicide prevention/crisis entities

Crisis Call centers provide high-quality professional interventions

1. Adhere to established quality standards and ensure timely accreditation/re-accreditation processes.
2. Increase the number of call centers seeking accreditation
3. Review accreditation standards by 1/2027 to ensure best practice promotion
4. Advance state legislation to mandate crisis call center accreditation with public reporting

The voices of lived experience, including suicide loss, are valued within the AAS community.

1. Share knowledge of impactful responses, such as Loss Teams
2. Elevate the voices of lived experience on all AAS platforms to ensure that scientific research and the personal/community impact of suicide are both elevated.
3. Ensure robust programming at Healing After Suicide Loss Summit