

Supporting Students' Mental Health and Preventing Suicide

Why You Should Read This: Washington State is creating free resources for any post-secondary school, program, or college to support its students' mental health and work to prevent student suicide.

Where We Started: In 2016, the state passed a law (House Bill 1138) requiring a study on what resources schools, programs and colleges were using to support students' mental health and prevent suicide. The study also looked at what resources were lacking. Insufficient funding was found to be the major hurdle for schools in improving their support of students' mental health.

What's Happening Now: A new law passed this year ([Senate Bill 6514](#)) directs the following:

1. Creation of a publicly available resource including free training, crisis planning, information on better supporting student veterans, and more. (Learn more at inthe forefront.org/sb6514/. Contact: Marny Lombard, lombardm@uw.edu)
2. Development of a grant program that will benefit chosen schools which have plans to partner with community mental health providers. (Learn more at the [grant program webpage](#) and read section 3 of the bill Contact: Mark Bergeson, MarkB@wsac.wa.gov)
3. Formation of annual reporting by all programs, schools and colleges on certain measures of students' mental health, and student suicides. (Learn more at inthe forefront.org/sb6514/. Contact: Marny Lombard, lombardm@uw.edu)

Where We're Going: In June 2018, Forefront Suicide Prevention of the University of Washington created a work group to undertake this initiative. Work group members include a representative of the Work Force Training and Higher Education Coordinating Board.

How You Can Help: If you have interest in student mental health or suicide prevention, we would like to invite you to join one of several sub-groups needed to successfully complete the three pillars of this initiative. (Contact: Marny Lombard, lombardm@uw.edu)

Important Dates for You: We want to alert you to a challenging timeline for the grant program Request for Proposals (RFP) process. We anticipate issuing an RFP around September 4, 2018, with mandatory letters of intent due September 21, 2018, and full proposals due October 16, 2018.

Early this fall, we will get information to you about work on the annual reporting plan. You will have the opportunity to give feedback on this work. This too will involve a challenging timeline.

Forefront's [website](#) will give you more information about this initiative, including dates and times of upcoming meetings.

Thank you for your interest in helping prevent suicide among Washington State's post-secondary students.

Marny Lombard
lombardm@uw.edu
Forefront Suicide Prevention