

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: COLORADO ZERO SUICIDE ACADEMY™ April 18-19, 2017 Denver, Colorado

**Application Deadline:** April 5, 2017 at 12pm MT

**Sponsoring Organization:** The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Office of Suicide Prevention, in partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health are pleased to bring Zero Suicide to Colorado, with additional support from the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. For far too long Colorado has ranked in the top 10 states in the nation for suicide rates. In 2015, there were 1,093 suicide deaths among Colorado residents, the highest number ever recorded in Colorado. Colorado has recognized the benefits of this health system model, and in 2016 the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 147, which encourages all health settings to implement this framework. The Suicide Prevention Commission of Colorado has identified Zero Suicide as a priority for regional crisis system organizations, community mental health centers, as well as community health centers, integrated care facilities, and large hospital and insurance systems. Training health care organizations in the Zero Suicide approach will improve the ability of health care providers to better support individuals who are at risk of suicide. Institutional adoption of the Zero Suicide framework will allow for a broad impact leading to systemic change to reduce the rate of suicide deaths across the state.

**Zero Suicide Academy™ Description:** The Zero Suicide Academy™ is a two-day training for senior leaders of health and behavioral health care organizations that seek to dramatically reduce suicides among patients in their care. Using the Zero Suicide framework, participants learn how to incorporate best and promising practices into their organizations and processes to improve care and safety for individuals at risk. Zero Suicide faculty provide both interactive presentations and small group sessions, and collaborate with participants to develop organization-specific action plans. The objectives of the Zero Suicide Academy™ are to (a) provide organizations interested in adopting a Zero Suicide approach with the skills and information necessary to launch their effort; (b) create collaborative links between the organizations launching these initiatives in order to provide mentorship and support so that the perspectives, knowledge, and skills of each inform the work of the others; and (c) aid in developing implementation plans for the Zero Suicide initiatives at each participating organization. The Zero Suicide Academy™ is presented by the Education Development Center, Inc.

**Zero Suicide is a key concept of the 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP).** The NSSP calls for suicide prevention to be a core component of health care services and for the

implementation of effective clinical and professional practices for assessing and treating those at risk for suicide. Objective 8.1 specifically promotes the adoption of “zero suicides” as an aspirational goal by health care and community support systems that provide services and support to defined patient populations.

**Zero Suicide is a priority of the [National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention \(Action Alliance\)](#).**

The Action Alliance is the public-private partnership advancing the NSSP by championing suicide prevention as a national priority, catalyzing efforts to implement high-priority objectives of the NSSP, and cultivating the resources needed to sustain progress. Zero Suicide builds on the momentum of the 2011 report released by the Action Alliance’s Clinical Care and Intervention Task Force, [Suicide Care in Systems Framework](#).

**Zero Suicide Model:** The Zero Suicide model aims to improve care and outcomes for individuals at risk of suicide seen in health care systems. To assist health and behavioral health care organizations in developing and implementing a Zero Suicide approach, [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com) offers an evolving online toolkit. Zero Suicide is a comprehensive approach that includes the following dimensions:

1. Create a leadership-driven, safety-oriented culture committed to dramatically reducing suicide among people under care. Include suicide attempt and loss survivors in leadership and planning roles.
2. Develop a competent, confident, and caring workforce.
3. Systematically identify and assess suicide risk among people receiving care.
4. Ensure every person has a suicide care management plan, or pathway to care, that is both timely and adequate to meet his or her needs. Include collaborative safety planning and restriction of lethal means.
5. Use effective, evidence-based treatments that directly target suicidality.
6. Provide continuous contact and support, especially after acute care.
7. Apply a data-driven quality improvement approach to inform system changes that will lead to improved patient outcomes and better care for those at risk.

**Application:** The Zero Suicide Academy™ application consists of:

1. A cover sheet, using the template provided on page 4. **The lead applicant will receive all correspondence and must be one of the four team members.**
2. A letter of commitment written by the organization’s CEO or Director. The Director should review and approve the submission and agree to the strategy proposed.
3. A narrative that, in no more than four pages (single spaced and 12 point font), responds to the following:
  - a. Briefly describe the members of your team and the relevant skills, knowledge, career goals, and experience they bring to the Zero Suicide Academy™.

- b. What successes and /or challenges have you had as a team or with other collaborative efforts?
  - c. How do you plan to successfully embed and sustain comprehensive suicide care in your organization?
  - d. What are your team's goals for participating in the Zero Suicide Academy™ and what does the team hope to learn during the training?
  - e. One-page abstract describing the Zero Suicide initiative that your organization proposes to conduct. The abstract must include: aims, description of approach, implementation plan, and timeline drawing heavily from the [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com) toolkit.
4. A Zero Suicide Organizational Self-Study, completed by the team members. The Self-Study can be found at <http://zerosuicide.sprc.org/resources/zero-suicide-organizational-self-study>.

**Eligibility:** Applications for the Zero Suicide Academy™ on April 18-19 are being sought from healthcare providers, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. The remaining four community mental health centers, regional crisis systems, hospital systems, integrated care facilities, emergency departments, community health centers (FQHCs), and large health systems are encouraged to apply.

The Zero Suicide Academy™ is not an orientation to the Zero Suicide initiative, but is geared for organizations that are ready to adopt and implement a Zero Suicide approach. **Applicants must come with a team of 4 individuals**. At least one individual must be a senior level administrative leader, with decision-making authority, positioned to ensure the Zero Suicide approach is embedded into the organization. At least one individual must be a senior clinician who can represent the current knowledge and skills of the clinical staff. Organizations are encouraged to include individuals with lived experience of suicidal ideation or behavior who can provide insight into the impact of organizational practices on people seeking care.

**Costs:** Thanks to the generous support of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Suicide Prevention, and the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, the attendance fee for participants will be waived and all attendees will be provided lunches for both days. Organizations sending representatives from locations exceeding 50 miles from the Denver Metro area are eligible to request travel reimbursement. Please indicate in your letter of commitment (number 2 below) if you are requesting a travel reimbursement. Participants are required to attend both full days of the Academy and no exceptions will be provided.

**Commitment Post-Academy:** Selected organization will be required to participate in a one year Zero Suicide Learning Community beginning in the Summer of 2017, supported by the Office of Suicide Prevention. This infrastructure will support organizations in the implementation of Zero Suicide plans and will allow for interaction with other organizations to share experiences to further develop knowledge, skills, and abilities to sustain efforts across Colorado. Learning Community meetings will likely be 90 minute, monthly webinars or telephone calls addressing a variety of topics related to

implementing zero suicide plans, progress updates, and reporting on process measures. Colorado and national Zero Suicide mentors will be identified and will provide opportunities to expand and support Zero Suicide efforts across Colorado.

**Selection Criteria:** The review committee will rate applications based on their merit in responding to this application. The review committee reserves the right to select participants who are representative of geographical and organizational diversity. Applications will be judged using the following criteria:

1. The CEO or Director's knowledge of and commitment to the Zero Suicide initiative.
2. The feasibility of the timeline and work plan.
3. The organization's plans and expectations for embedding the Zero Suicide model into care as outlined in the [www.zerosuicide.com](http://www.zerosuicide.com) toolkit.
4. Demonstrated commitment to collaboration among team members.
5. The incorporation of persons with lived experience in leadership and planning roles.

**Deadline:** Application materials should be submitted via e-mail as two PDF files to [ckratz@edc.org](mailto:ckratz@edc.org) by April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm MT. One PDF should include the following items in the following order: Cover sheet, Letter of commitment, and Narrative. The other PDF should consist of the completed Zero Suicide Organizational Self-Study. You will be notified via email by April 7, 2017 about your application status.

**Timeline:**

Application released	March 24, 2017
Application due	April 5, 2017
Applicants notified of their status	April 7, 2017
Zero Suicide Academy™ conducted	April 18-19, 2017

**Questions:**

Please contact Clayton Kratz, EDC, at [ckratz@edc.org](mailto:ckratz@edc.org) or (202) 572-5361.

## Colorado Zero Suicide Academy™ Application Cover Sheet

<b>Organization Name:</b>			
<b>City, State:</b>			
<b>Lead Applicant</b>			
<b>Name, Degrees:</b>			
Job Title:			
Phone Number:			
Email Address:			
<b>Other Team Members</b>			
<b>Name, Degrees:</b>			
Job Title:			
Email Address:			
<b>Name, Degrees:</b>			
Job Title:			
Email Address:			
<b>Name, Degrees:</b>			
Job Title:			
Email Address:			
<b>Type of organization (check all that apply):</b>		<b>Please list other practice transformation initiatives (e.g., trauma informed care, just in time scheduling, collaborative documentation, expansion of peer workforce, etc.) your organization is currently working on.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community mental health center <input type="checkbox"/> Other behavioral health organization (e.g. alcohol and drug treatment, community psychiatric rehab, crisis response) <input type="checkbox"/> Federally qualified health center <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated delivery system <input type="checkbox"/> Private insurer <input type="checkbox"/> Public insurer <input type="checkbox"/> State department of health or mental health <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please describe:			
<b>Number of clients served annually by your organization:</b>			
<b>Number of service sites:</b>			
<b>Total number of staff employed or contracted (include both clinical and non-clinical):</b>			
<b>Which population is your organization's primary focus? (Check both if applicable.)</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Adults <input type="checkbox"/> Youth	
<b>Is your organization an Indian Health Service site, Tribal Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Program?</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	