



STATEWIDE OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION  
AND  
SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

<b>Position:</b>	Director, Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention
<b>Agency:</b>	Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, Florida Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor
<b>Location:</b>	Tallahassee, Florida; Leon County
<b>Annual Salary Range:</b>	\$45,000 – \$55,000 All benefits paid (health, dental, life insurance, long-term disability)
<b>Facility:</b>	Capitol Building Complex
<b>Job Type:</b>	Full-Time, 40 hours per week
<b>Travel:</b>	Minimal due to travel restrictions
<b>Supervised By:</b>	The Director is supervised by the Director of the Florida Office of Drug Control

### Minimum Qualifications:

- Graduate of an accredited institution of higher learning with at least a bachelor's degree
- Five years professional work experience in suicide prevention, mental health, psychology, social work, public health, public policy, communications, or other related field
- Must be able to demonstrate strong leadership and vision, experience in strategic planning, collaboration building, and managing group dynamics.
- Must be able to demonstrate superior ability in writing, public speaking, and communication skills. The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention releases a number of resources, trainings, and reports each year which are disseminated statewide and/or nationally.

### Duties and Responsibilities:

#### Overview:

The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, in collaboration with the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, coordinates Florida's suicide prevention efforts by developing mechanisms for implementing the *Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy*, providing oversight, building capacity, creating policy, and mobilizing communities, with the overall goal of lowering suicidality and improving quality of life. The Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention functions as a unit of the Florida Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor.

#### Components:

#### **A. Guide the implementation of the *Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy*, create policy, build statewide initiatives and mobilize communities to implement suicide prevention activities.**

*Suicide is a preventable public health problem. Public health is the science and art of promoting health, preventing disease, and prolonging life through the organized efforts of society. With the establishment of*

*the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the formulation of a formal strategy, Florida is poised to lead the nation in its suicide prevention efforts and to protect the lives of its citizens.*

- Prioritize the goals, objectives and action ideas of *Florida Suicide Prevention Implementation Strategy* aiming toward consistent, widespread implementation at both the state and local level.
- Secure funding to expand the Florida Suicide Implementation Project which is the mechanism by which we are working to implement the state plan on the local level in communities throughout Florida.
- Write legislation and work with the Legislature to pass laws that would have a positive impact on suicide prevention.
- Development statewide prevention initiatives.

**B. Foster partnerships and collaborations within the broader prevention framework.**

*Early prevention and intervention are essential to reducing suicide, requiring a comprehensive approach that addresses social, behavioral, and psychiatric risk and protective factors. It is imperative that we aim to improve the quality of life for those who are suffering. Success in suicide prevention depends heavily on empowerment at the local level. An infrastructure built on cooperation between the federal, state, and community level is essential for comprehensively combating this problem. Expansion of community efforts interconnected by a network of shared information, mutual support, and reinforcing activities will serve as a first line of defense against suicide. Through these partnerships, we will be able to augment existing suicide prevention capabilities and promote collaborative action. There is no more room for silos, only specialties.*

- Lead the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council in progressive action. Prioritize short and long terms goals based on the Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy's goals, objective and action ideas.
- Facilitate quarterly meetings and continual collaboration throughout the year.
- Strengthen our national presence and relationships by developing strategies and resources that other states can utilize. Present at national conferences.
- Collaborate with a multitude of local, state and national organizations to move initiatives forward, key in to national trends, and comprehensively partner to advance suicide prevention.
- Respond to email, phone and web inquiries from professionals and constituents regarding various situations.

**C. Promote education and increase public awareness.**

*One of the most effective ways to lessen stigmatization and encourage help-seeking behavior is to share accurate information on the phenomenon of suicide. Statistics revealing trends, patterns, risk factors and warning signs related to suicide are essential for components of public knowledge. Accurate and open discussion of the nature of the problem by public officials, committed advocacy groups and grassroots organizations will go a long way toward making suicide a better understood and, ultimately, a more preventable event. As much as public awareness is key, education and training of those charged with responding to potential risks is imperative to completing the cycle of awareness, empowerment, and resolution. If all we did was heighten the knowledge base of families of individuals at greater risk for suicide without both broadening and deepening the capacity for a responsive system, the problem would only be half-addressed. Lay people and professionals alike must be taught how to respond effectively to the threat of a suicide. In short, to be successful suicide prevention must be integrated into society and culture.*

- Work with the Office of Drug Control to organize the Annual Statewide Prevention Conference.
- Organize and host the annual Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol, including awareness displays, advocacy, a walk, and press conference.

- Appear and speak at local and state conferences and educational events to represent that Statewide Office. Distribute educational materials and provide information to constituents.
- Maintain the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention website ([www.HelpPromoteHope.com](http://www.HelpPromoteHope.com)) content and usability; update to reflect current information; promote initiatives and connect with constituents through social media and other avenues
- Create media opportunities to promote the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and raise awareness on the issue; write press releases, compelling editorials, and speaking points. Interface with media to educate on responsible reporting.
- Appear and speak at local and state venues to represent the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention. Develop training materials and give educational presentations as needed. Serve as a subject matter expert.
- Write and publish a comprehensive Annual Report for the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention.

**D. Seek and develop funding resources.**

*In order to successfully bring down Florida's suicide rate, it is imperative that resources and funds are available to assist in the launch and implementation of new strategies. The suicide prevention efforts in the state have largely been provided through existing budgets and resources. As the efforts grow, further collaboration and integration of resources will be necessary to ensure success.*

- Research and identify potential funding sources that share the mission and vision of the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, including federal grants, private foundation grants, in-kind contributors, and other potential donors. Develop and maintain a funding database to ensure availability of grant opportunities.
- Facilitate relationship between the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention, grant proposal writers, and EOG administration. Provide support in researching, writing proposals and supplying information to said parties throughout the application process. When awarded funding, execute planned grant activities.
- Provide technical assistance in grant implementation.

**Those interested in applying should send resume, cover letter, and a writing or presentation sample to Erin MacInnes at [Erin.MacInnes@MyFlorida.com](mailto:Erin.MacInnes@MyFlorida.com).**

For more information, visit [www.HelpPromoteHope.com](http://www.HelpPromoteHope.com) or call (850) 922-0498.