

# OHIO'S VOICE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

## Assessing the Strengths and Needs of Ohio's Suicide Prevention Coalitions Coalition Assessment Process

### Frequently Asked Questions

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**Question: What is the purpose of the assessment?**

**Answer:** Ohio's Suicide Prevention Coalition Assessment was created to garner information from suicide prevention coalitions around the state of Ohio to identify both their areas of strengths and their needs. Coalitions' assessment responses will be utilized to develop trainings that will be open to all of Ohio's suicide prevention coalitions. These trainings will provide ongoing learning opportunities that will help build coalition capacity and strengthen coalitions' efforts. The assessment data will also be aggregated and used to inform statewide planning, including informing advocacy efforts for how funding is prioritized.

**Question: What is the process for completing the assessment?**

**Answer:** The assessment is best completed by a small group of coalition members in order to obtain the clearest picture of your coalition. A coalition leader will schedule a meeting with 3 to 5 coalition members and ensure they each have a copy of the assessment. As a team, the coalition members will discuss each assessment item, coming to consensus on the assessment responses. At the completion of the meeting, and when all responses have been answered, one person will enter your coalition's responses into the Qualtrics online portal. The link to this assessment will be sent out via email as soon as the assessment is launched. And that's it! Make sure to thank your coalition members for participating and celebrate your coalition's commitment to advancing suicide prevention in Ohio!

**Question: How long will it take to complete the assessment?**

**Answer:** Depending on how talkative your group is and how long it takes them to come to consensus on the assessment items, it is expected for the assessment to take between one and three hours to complete.

**Question: When will the assessment go "live" and when will it close?**

**Answer:** The assessment will officially launch September 1, 2020 and will close at 5:00 pm on September 30, 2020.

**Question: My coalition is participating in the Strengthening and Sustaining Ohio’s Suicide Prevention Coalition (SSOSPC) Initiative. How does this assessment differ from the Community Readiness Assessment (CRA) and the Community Coalition Action Theory (CCAT) that we are already participating in?**

**Answer:** The three processes very much compliment one another and we encourage coalitions to participate in all three of them. Here are the differences between these three processes:

<b>Coalition Assessment</b>	<b>CRA</b>	<b>CCAT</b>
<p><b><u>What is it?</u></b> An assessment of Ohio suicide prevention coalitions that will identify areas of strengths and needs of individual coalition’s processes and functions.</p>	<p><b><u>What is it?</u></b> An assessment of how prepared a community is to take action to address a particular health issue, in this case, suicide prevention and awareness.</p>	<p><b><u>What is it?</u></b> A group learning process for coalitions to gain a better understanding of coalition best practices and their operational structures and relationships.</p>
<p><b><u>Why is it important?</u></b> Data collected will be used for statewide strategic planning and advocacy as well as to build mechanisms for building professional development and capacity building opportunities for suicide prevention coalitions across the state of Ohio. This data can also be used by coalitions to track their progress and development by providing them individualized baseline information.</p>	<p><b><u>Why is it important?</u></b> Community-readiness data is used by suicide prevention coalitions at the local level to guide their selection of strategies that are the most likely to be successful based on the degree in which their specific community is prepared to take action.</p>	<p><b><u>Why is it important?</u></b> By participating in this group learning process, suicide prevention coalitions learn about the critical elements of effective, data-driven, action-oriented, coalition best practices.</p>

**Question: What will happen with my assessment information?**

**Answer:** Once your assessment responses are entered into the Qualtrics electronic portal, the data will be aggregated and analyzed by researchers from Ohio University’s Voinovich School of Leadership. A report of findings will be generated with the potential for publication.

**Question: Who will see my coalition’s assessment responses?**

**Answer:** The assessment responses you enter into the Qualtrics electronic portal are completely anonymous and confidential. Your coalition will only be identified through this assessment process if you choose to participate in Individualized Coaching Plan sessions. In that case, your assessment responses will be reviewed

only by staff from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and You Thrive Training & Consulting, LLC. Your identifying information and assessment responses will not be subject to public record.

**Question: How many coalition members should participate in completing my coalition's assessment?**

**Answer:** A small group of 3 to 5 members is ideal.

**Question: What is the difference between the paper assessment and the electronic assessment?**

**Answer:** The paper assessment and the electronic assessment are almost identical. The only difference is that the paper assessment contains identifying information (names, geographic locations, etc.) that will not be entered into the Qualtrics electronic portal. This identifying information will only be seen by others, with your coalition's permission, if you intend to request Individualized Coaching Plan technical assistance.

**Question: What is an Individualized Coaching Plan (ICP)?**

**Answer:** An Individualized Coaching Plan includes technical assistance sessions that are specifically geared to meet the needs of your coalition. If your coalition is interested in receiving this specialized assistance, you will complete the ICP Request Form and submit it and a paper copy of your assessment to Mary Wolff at the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation at [mary.wolff@ohiospf.org](mailto:mary.wolff@ohiospf.org). ICP sessions will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis, and are completely free to your coalition. The length and number of the sessions vary depending on the content of the technical assistance but may be limited to accommodate requests from other coalitions.

**Question: Who is sponsoring and administering the assessment?**

**Answer:** The Ohio Suicide Prevention Coalition Assessment is a collaborative project between the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, You Thrive Training & Consulting, LLC, and Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, with generous funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

**Question: We want to participate in this assessment, but we don't think we can get it done in the stated timeframe. Can we request an extension?**

**Answer:** Extensions may be formally requested for coalitions who are participating in the Strengthening and Sustaining Ohio's Suicide Prevention Coalitions (SSOSPC) Initiative. You can request a Coalition Assessment Extension Request Form from Mary Wolf at [mary.wolff@ohiospf.org](mailto:mary.wolff@ohiospf.org).

**Question: What if we choose not to participate in the assessment?**

**Answer:** Participating in the assessment is completely voluntary. However, we encourage all Ohio suicide prevention coalitions to participate due to the multiple benefits that this data collection process will have on advancing suicide prevention efforts, including the development of capacity building opportunities, statewide planning, advocacy, and funding prioritizations.