

# Success Stories: Advancing Health Agency Capacity to Address ACEs, Suicide, Overdose, and Mental Health-Related Harms

## Request for Information

### 1. Background

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is developing resources that will showcase how to address the intersection of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), suicide, overdose, and mental health-related harms. This work will include toolkits, roadmaps, blogs, and learning opportunities that share resources and highlight successful approaches to preventing these issues simultaneously.

- **Request for Information Released:** September 15, 2025
- **Due Date:** October 10, 2025
- **Selection:** October 24, 2025
- **Participants Notified:** Late October/Early November 2025
- **Discussions Start:** December 2025
- **For questions, please reach out to** [sbh@astho.org](mailto:sbh@astho.org)

### 2. Overview

ASTHO is creating several capacity-building products aimed at enhancing state, territorial, and freely associated state capacity for the primary prevention of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and other mental health-related harms. Your expertise and experience are not just important but crucial to this process. To enhance these products, we are seeking health agency leaders and program staff from six jurisdictions to share their successes and the challenges they overcame in improving their work in simultaneously preventing ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health-related harms upstream.

ASTHO wants to highlight and share the everyday stories shaping public health (e.g., [success stories from utilizing the Public Health Infrastructure Grant](#)). We invite your jurisdiction to join upcoming discussions starting in December to showcase your successes and provide feedback on strategies that can strengthen impact across multiple public health areas.

By participating, your work will serve as an example for other agencies nationwide, helping them replicate your success while giving your jurisdiction recognition as a leader in the field. This is your opportunity to share what's working, influence future strategies, and contribute to resources that will support public health agencies nationwide.

ASTHO will share questions in advance, and with your permission, record these discussions to help inform the development of the final products. We will not share any audio, video, or summaries without your agency's prior approval. Your confidentiality is our priority.

**Table 1: Summary of Project Purpose, Benefits, and Commitment**

Purpose	Benefits	Commitment
Showcase how jurisdictions are successfully and innovatively maximizing impact and addressing the intersection of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health-related harms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share your work with others and have a final deliverable you can share with stakeholders and partners that describes your work.</li> <li>• Give valuable input on an ASTHO resource.</li> <li>• Receive wide recognition – and celebration – for your work. There is a potential opportunity for your work to appear in an <i>ASTHOConnects</i> webinar, blog, microlearning, or the morning newscast, <i>Public Health Review Morning Edition</i>, to highlight and share it with a broader audience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify at least one health agency leadership staff member and one or two program staff members working directly in this area. Many ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health-related harm prevention strategies require multidisciplinary approaches, so the partners invited can represent programs addressing and preventing these public health issues.</li> <li>• Participate in a one-hour recorded and transcribed discussion about your work and give feedback on ASTHO's upcoming capacity building products. Please note that this may require additional time for preparation and follow-up.</li> <li>• Review and provide feedback on final products ahead of their release. Your insights will be crucial in ensuring the quality and relevance of the resources.</li> <li>• Potential invitation to participate in a five-minute newscast episode or one-hour webinar.</li> </ul>

### 3. Application Process

Participation is open to all states, territories, and freely associated states interested in advancing prevention work at the intersection of ACEs, suicide, overdose, and mental health. The selection process will be based on the relevance of the work to the project and the potential impact of the shared insights. Participation by both agency leadership and program-level staff is encouraged and preferred. Please fill out [this survey](#) to submit your application.