The Construction Suicide Prevention Partnership (CSPP), formerly known as the Oregon and Southwest Washington Construction Industry Suicide Prevention Taskforce, convened in 2019 to build and implement a unified strategy for reducing suicide and promoting mental wellbeing within the Oregon and Southwest Washington construction industry.

In response to the staggering rate of suicide deaths among construction industry workers, CSPP, coordinated by Lines for Life, developed a strategic plan centered around three high level objectives aimed at reducing suicide and promoting mental wellness on and off the construction site. With a plan in place in late 2020 and nearly 100 invested members, CSPP was ready to start “performing” and creating lasting change.

**NAVIGATING THE PROCESS**

Safe States Alliance released its *Strengthening Partnerships between Business and Public Health: A Roadmap for Advancing Community Injury and Violence Prevention* (Roadmap) in 2020, and shortly after, CSPP was one of three seed grantees awarded funding to pilot the tool and showcase the translation of best practices into real-world settings.

With an eager and committed set of cross-sector partners and a comprehensive plan with shared goals for guiding their efforts developed, CSPP was ready to move their work forward and apply the recommendations from the “Perform” section of the Roadmap.

The “PERFORM” section of the Roadmap builds on the goals and priority areas identified through the planning process by selecting the activities and roles partners will play in implementing and achieving them. It emphasizes using evidence-based or proven strategies rather than “re-inventing the wheel.”
CSPP prioritized branding, developing, and marketing a comprehensive online **Construction Industry Suicide Prevention Take Action Guide** (Action Guide) to serve as the go-to resource for the construction industry and its stakeholders to reduce suicide and promote mental wellbeing on and off the job site.

To expedite the process, CSPP used Lines For Life’s **YouthLine Step-By-Step Guide** for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in schools as a foundation from which stakeholders could build the Action Guide.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**Different Voices Combine for One Mission**
CSPP recognized the importance of universal buy-in for the branding and contents of the Action Guide among both public health and competing industry partners. While soliciting input from such a diverse group can be time consuming and reduce efficiency, it resulted in partners who were vested and committed to operationalizing the Action Guide.

**Sound Process Spurs Action**
Multi-sector partnerships work because of the strengths each partner brings to the table. For CSPP, the Roadmap provided guidance and a formal process to follow that added structure for the action-oriented business partners, while also satisfying public health partners’ desire to strategically plan.

**Funding Expands Opportunity**
Having strong leadership and an influx of funding created an optimal environment for strengthening and broadening the partnership. Key partners were already engaged and regularly coming to the table, and new resources produced new opportunities, like expanded Question. Persuade. Refer. (QPR) trainings, for both efforts and partnerships to flourish.

**Readiness and Early Partnership Pave the Way for Success**
Lines for Life, the coordinator for CSPP, has a long history of working with communities that have identified a need and are ready to move to action. Establishing strong, multi-sectoral partnerships early in the process and actively listening to the voices across stakeholders made it possible for partners to jump right into the development of the Action Guide, and the early relationship building efforts will ultimately improve its uptake.
The road to strengthened partnerships is not one-way. It must be a continuous process where partners cycle between steps as their work progresses. CSPP connected with new partners and expanded their engagement as the work evolved, and the news of their success traveled. By providing a solid structure and an inclusive environment, CSPP has strengthened their partnership while providing a quality resource for the field.

The Roadmap helped the CSPP anticipate potential differences among our members. Our strategic planning process embraced the diversity of our partnership. Our three-prong strategic plan provides different pathways to our unified mission: to reduce suicide and promote mental well-being in the construction industry.

Max Margolis
CSPP Project Coordinator

The pandemic has significantly impacted mental health and wellbeing across disciplines. Partnership members reported concerns regularly and have seen an increase in calls for assistance. This prompted action among partners to create the tools and get resources to those in need. Thanks to their earlier efforts, the partnership was poised to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Health Equity Considerations

Lines for Life, the coordinating organization for the CSPP, has always integrated race and equity into its approach to suicide prevention. The construction industry employs a very diverse population spanning races, ethnicities, genders, and ages. The partnership intentionally engaged end users in the design process, including reviewing language, examples, and images in the guide. These steps added time to the process but resulted in better materials.