



2025

IMPACT REPORT

CHESTER COUNTY
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**
PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening Suicide
Prevention Across
Chester County

ccspp.org
info@ccspp.org

A Letter from Our Executive Director

*Suicide prevention is not the work of one person
or one organization.
It takes all of us working **together**.*



Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2025, I am reminded that suicide prevention is about people coming together to ensure no one has to face life's challenges alone. Every training, partnership, event, and conversation represents our shared commitment to building a stronger, healthier Chester County.

This year marked a period of meaningful growth and transition for the Chester County Suicide Prevention Partnership. We expanded evidence-based education, strengthened community partnerships, increased public awareness, and continued building the organizational foundation needed to advance our mission. I am grateful to Kate Siolek for her leadership and the strong foundation she helped establish before I assumed the role of Interim Executive Director in October.

Together, we trained hundreds of community members in suicide prevention, strengthened our Veteran Initiative, expanded outreach across the county, supported survivors of suicide loss, and continued growing our impact through collaboration, education, and awareness. We also invested in our future by strengthening our operations, fundraising efforts, and strategic planning to ensure CCSPP remains a trusted resource for years to come.

None of this would have been possible without our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, community partners, sponsors, donors, and supporters. Your commitment makes this work possible and brings hope to individuals and families throughout Chester County.

While we celebrate the progress made in 2025, we know there is still more work to do. Together, we remain committed to expanding prevention efforts, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every person knows help is available and hope is within reach.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us as we continue saving lives and strengthening mental health across Chester County.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Siolek'.

Who We Are

Building a Safer, More Connected Chester County



MISSION

Chester County Suicide Prevention Partnership’s (CCSPP) mission is to decrease suicide through increased awareness and education in the community. CCSPP collaborates with the community to develop suicide prevention strategies and works to reduce the risk, stigma, and occurrence of suicide in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

EDUCATE



We provide evidence-based suicide prevention training that equips community members, professionals, and organizations with the knowledge and skills to recognize warning signs and respond with confidence.

CONNECT



We build partnerships across healthcare, education, government, businesses, and community organizations to strengthen suicide prevention efforts throughout Chester County.

SUPPORT



We raise awareness, reduce stigma, support survivors of suicide loss, and connect individuals and families with resources that foster hope and healing.

WHY IT MATTERS

Suicide prevention is most effective when an entire community works together. CCSPP serves as the connector that brings organizations, professionals, and residents together around a shared mission to save lives.

Leadership & Governance

Strong leadership and engaged governance provide the foundation for CCSPP’s mission and long-term sustainability

Kate Siolek

Executive Director

January - October 2025

Karl Cassell

Interim Executive Director

October - December 2025

Program Coordinators



Alexandra Lorenz



Kayla Shaffer, MPH

Board of Directors

Adesoji “Richard” Adesida

Renée Cassidy

Susanne Fink

Lilian Miller

Andrew Reigle

Carol Rothera

Deborah Ryan

Strategic Plan Progress

Advancing our strategic priorities through organizational growth, stronger partnerships, and expanded programming.

Programs



HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded Older Adult QPR
- Grew Veteran Initiative programs

BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Expanded bilingual resources
- Evaluated existing programs

NEXT PRIORITIES

- Strengthen youth programming
- Reach underserved communities

Financial Sustainability



HIGHLIGHTS

- Formed Finance Committee
- Successful Hope & Hops fundraiser

BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Expanded grant opportunities
- Strengthened fundraising strategy

NEXT PRIORITIES

- Increase foundation support
- Grow recurring donors

Community Engagement



HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed CCSPP rebrand
- Expanded community outreach

BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Developed targeted messaging
- Increased digital engagement

NEXT PRIORITIES

- Reach priority populations
- Strengthen clinical partnerships

Human Resources



HIGHLIGHTS

- Built organizational infrastructure
- Strengthened staff support

BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Expanded volunteer planning
- Strengthened internship capacity

NEXT PRIORITIES

- Launch volunteer program
- Recognize volunteer contributions

Governance



HIGHLIGHTS

- Strengthened Board leadership
- Advanced strategic planning

BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Reviewed governance structure
- Updated governance practices

NEXT PRIORITIES

- Expand Board recruitment
- Enhance governance policies

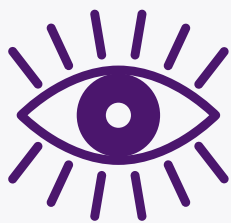
Listening to Our Community

In late 2025, CCSPP surveyed Chester County residents to better understand awareness of suicide prevention resources, barriers to care, and confidence in recognizing suicide warning signs.

115

Community Members

Shared Their Voices

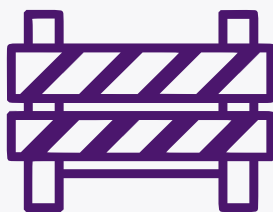


Awareness

88.3%

were aware that
Chester County
implemented the 988
Lifeline

Among respondents who answered this question.



Barriers to Care

1. Finding Providers

51 responses

2. Financial Cost

47 responses

3. Insurance

21 responses



Confidence

57%

felt quite or
extremely confident
in recognizing
suicide warning signs

Among respondents who answered this question.

WHY IT MATTERS

Community feedback helps guide our work. These findings reinforce the importance of expanding education, reducing barriers to care, and connecting more residents with suicide prevention resources.

This community survey was designed and implemented by CCSPP Program Coordinator Kayla Shaffer as part of her graduate Applied Practice Experience (APE) with Tufts University. The findings are helping inform CCSPP's outreach, education, and suicide prevention priorities.

Hope & Hops

Every connection made at Hope & Hops helps strengthen suicide prevention across Chester County.



22

Sponsors

29

Donations

144

Tickets Sold

\$27,920

Raised

BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

Hope & Hops brought together community members, local businesses, sponsors, and advocates for an evening dedicated to supporting suicide prevention in Chester County. More than a fundraiser, the event celebrated the power of connection and collective action. Thanks to the generosity of our attendees and supporters, Hope & Hops raised critical funds that help expand education, outreach, and lifesaving programs throughout our community. Together, we are creating a county where every conversation has the potential to save a life.

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Every sponsorship, donation, and ticket purchased represented more than financial support — it represented a shared commitment to strengthening suicide prevention efforts across Chester County

Building a Safer Community

Education is one of the most effective strategies for preventing suicide. Throughout 2025, CCSPP continued providing evidence-informed trainings that equipped individuals, organizations, and communities with the knowledge and confidence to recognize warning signs, respond with compassion, and connect people to support.



QPR

Teaching community members how to recognize warning signs and connect someone to help.

School Partners

Expanding suicide prevention education in schools through partnerships with the Chester County Intermediate Unit.

CALM

Helping people have practical conversations that create time, distance, and safety during a suicidal crisis.

Connections

Exploring the relationship between trauma and suicide through education and dialogue.

MHFA

Building confidence to recognize and respond to developing mental health concerns.

WHY TRAINING MATTERS

Every training expands the network of people prepared to recognize suicide risk, provide support, and connect individuals with lifesaving resources.

QPR

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) teaches participants how to recognize warning signs, ask direct questions, offer hope, and connect someone to appropriate support.



31

QPR Trainings

369

Community Members



38

Youth



331

Adults



EXTENDING OUR REACH

In addition to those we trained directly, through our partnership with the Chester County Intermediate Unit, suicide prevention education reached approximately 2,800 students across 10 school systems during more than 110 QPR sessions.

110+

QPR Trainings

10

School Systems

~2,800

Students trained

CALM

Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) is an evidence-based suicide prevention program that teaches people how to have compassionate conversations about reducing access to lethal means during times of crisis. These conversations are practical, respectful, and centered on safety—creating time and distance that can save lives while someone moves through a suicidal crisis.

Creating Time.
Creating Distance.
Saving Lives.



Clinical Workshops

3

CEU-accredited training for healthcare and behavioral health professionals

Participants Reached

77

Professionals and community members participated in CALM education throughout Chester County during 2025.

Community Conversation

1

Community discussion for the general public that focuses on practical strategies for reducing access to lethal means.

COMMUNITY REACH

31

Chester County Hospital

24

Department of Drug & Alcohol

13

Government Services Center

9

Mainline Armory

Connections: Trauma & Suicide

Connections: Trauma & Suicide explores the relationship between traumatic experiences, emotional pain, and suicide. Through guided discussion and evidence-informed education, participants gain a deeper understanding of how trauma affects the brain, behavior, and healing—while learning practical ways to respond with compassion and hope.

7

Trainings

108

Participants

Connection is one of the strongest protective factors against suicide.

WHY IT MATTERS

Understanding trauma changes the way we respond to people experiencing emotional distress. By replacing judgment with compassion, Connections helps build communities where healing and hope are possible.

Mental Health First Aid

17

Mental Health First Aid Classes

WHAT IS MHFA?

Mental Health First Aid equips participants with the knowledge and confidence to recognize the signs of developing mental health challenges, provide initial support, and connect individuals to appropriate professional and community resources. Like physical first aid, early intervention can make a meaningful difference.

Recognize



Learn to identify signs of mental health challenges.

Respond



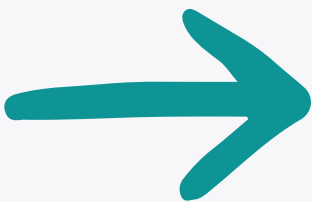
Practice supportive conversations.

Connect



Guide individuals to appropriate resources.

Support



Build safer, more compassionate communities.

WHY IT MATTERS

When more people know how to recognize and respond to mental health concerns, more individuals receive support before a crisis develops.

Veteran Initiative

CCSPP continued expanding veteran-focused suicide prevention efforts by strengthening partnerships, increasing outreach, and creating spaces where veterans and their families could connect through conversation and shared experience.



VETERAN FOCUS

Throughout 2025, CCSPP continued convening the Veteran Subcommittee and strengthening partnerships with veteran-serving organizations across Chester County. Through monthly collaboration and outreach, the initiative worked to increase awareness of veteran suicide, improve access to resources, and expand community engagement.



Monthly Veteran Subcommittee



7 Veteran Outreach Events



Expanded Community Partnerships

THE JOURNEY HOME

The Journey Home documentary screenings created opportunities for veterans, family members, and community partners to engage in honest conversations about military transition, trauma, and suicide prevention.



August 2025
Kennett Library
29 Attendees

November 2025
Downingtown VFW
12 Attendees

CONNECTION

Veterans built meaningful relationships, strengthened peer support, and discovered they were not alone in their journey.

EDUCATION

Community members gained a deeper understanding of veteran suicide prevention and the unique experiences veterans may face.

COLLABORATION

Community organizations united to strengthen partnerships, expand resources, and better support veterans and their families.

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group



Losing someone to suicide can be an incredibly isolating experience. CCSPP's Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group offers a compassionate space where individuals can connect with others who understand the unique challenges of suicide grief. Through shared experiences, understanding, and hope, participants are reminded that healing is not something they have to face alone.

*Healing doesn't mean forgetting.
It means learning you don't have
to carry your grief alone.*

WHAT PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT



Compassionate Peer Support
Connect with others who understand suicide loss.



Shared Experiences
A safe place to listen, reflect, and heal.



Hope & Healing
Find encouragement while navigating grief.

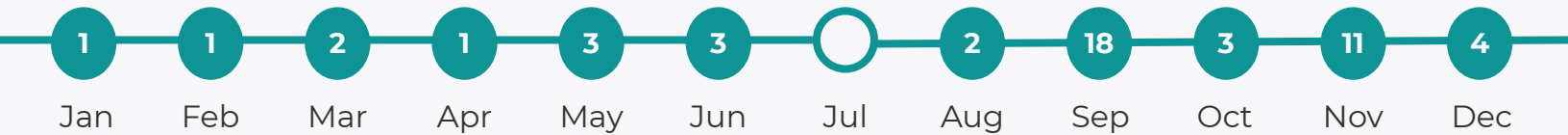


Community Connection
Build supportive relationships with others on similar journeys.

Community Outreach

49

Community Events

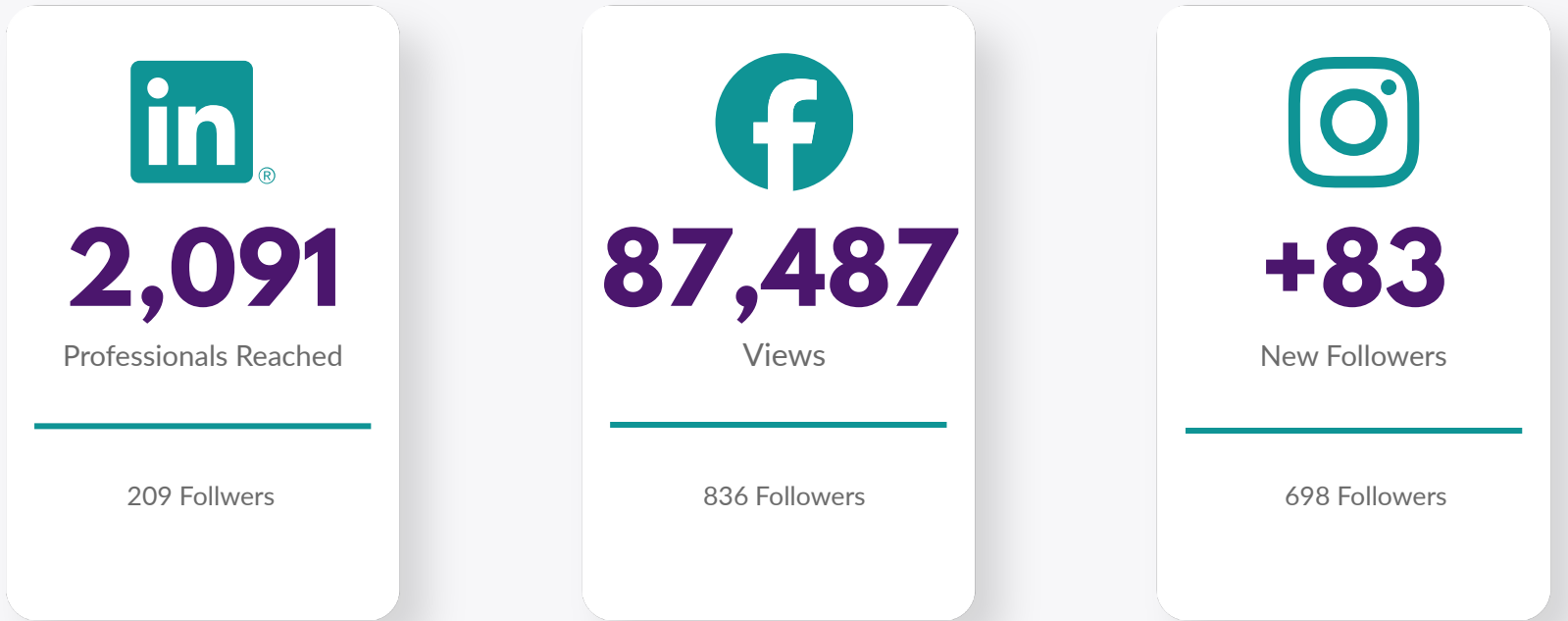


BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Every outreach event created an opportunity to start conversations, increase awareness, reduce stigma, and connect residents with suicide prevention resources. Whether at community festivals, resource fairs, or local events, each interaction strengthened CCSP's presence throughout Chester County.

Connecting Our Community

Throughout 2025, CCSPP continued expanding its digital presence to share suicide prevention resources, promote upcoming trainings and events, highlight community partnerships, and encourage conversations around mental health. Social media helped extend our reach well beyond in-person programming, connecting thousands of individuals across Chester County and beyond.



EVERY POST STARTED A CONVERSATION

Every post, event announcement, training update, and community partnership shared online helped expand awareness, reduce stigma, and connect residents to suicide prevention resources throughout Chester County.

Looking Forward Continuing the Conversation

In 2026, CCSPP will continue strengthening its digital outreach by sharing timely suicide prevention resources, highlighting community partnerships, and increasing opportunities for education and engagement across Chester County.

THANK YOU!

Suicide prevention is not the work of one organization—it is the work of an entire community.

Every training delivered, every conversation started, every outreach event attended, and every life touched was made possible through the dedication of our volunteers, board members, staff, community partners, funders, and supporters.

Thank you for standing alongside us as we work toward a future where everyone in Chester County knows that hope, help, and connection are always within reach.

We cannot do this work alone. Your time, partnership, and support help make this work possible. We invite you to join us in continuing to build a stronger, more connected community.



ccspp.org



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