

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Notices Requesting Comments

**Comment On:** VA-2025-VACO-0001-0046  
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Suicide Prevention 2.0 Program—Community Opinion Survey: (FR Doc No: 2025-12222/ OMB Control No. 2900-0911)

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Comment from St. Francois County Community Partnership on VA-2025-VACO-0001-0046

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## General Comment

Localizing suicide intervention strategies and mental health crisis support is essential for providing effective care and prevention. When mental health services are tailored to the unique challenges of a community, it allows for more personalized, responsive, and culturally relevant interventions. Local providers are often best positioned to understand the economic, social, and demographic factors that influence mental health, and they can adapt services to meet those needs in ways that might not be possible with a broad, one-size-fits-all approach.

One of the major advantages of involving local communities in decision-making, especially around funding allocation, is that it ensures resources are directed where they're truly needed. Often, decisions made at the state or national level don't capture the nuances of a specific area. For example, a community might have a high level of isolation, a lack of access to transportation, or high unemployment, all of which can contribute to mental health challenges. Local leaders and organizations who are familiar with these conditions can use their knowledge to address those challenges more effectively.

Also, when communities are empowered to make decisions about mental health care, it fosters trust and engagement. People are more likely to seek help when they feel that their specific circumstances are understood and respected. Plus, it can create a sense of shared responsibility and collective action within the community, which is important for addressing mental health issues in a holistic way.