**Email to Law Enforcement Leadership Introducing Toolkit**

Dear (Insert law enforcement leadership name),

Tragically for the past three years, more law enforcement officers died by suicide than in the line-of-duty (BlueHelp.org). Nationally in 2018, 167 law enforcement officers died by suicide. To date in 2019, there have been a confirmed 100 deaths by suicide of law enforcement officers.

The [International Association of Chiefs of Police](https://www.theiacp.org/resources/document/law-enforcement-suicide-prevention-and-awareness) has identified suicide prevention as a top priority for officer safety, taking on the role as the lead agency for the [National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide](https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/231546_NOSI_Flyer_Final.pdf), a program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's National Officer Safety Initiatives.

The first step in addressing the issue is to recognize that suicide can be prevented if we “Know the Signs, Find the Words, and Reach Out” ([www.SuicideIsPreventable.org](http://www.SuicideIsPreventable.org)). In fact, one [study](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cslan6%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5C6O0S40MG%5Co%09https%3A%5Cwww.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov%5Cpmc%5Carticles%5CPMC3380405%5C%3Freport%3Dclassic) demonstrated that the Montreal Police Department saw a *79% reduction in officers suicide* in the 12 years following the implementation of an agency-wide suicide prevention program.

We hope you will utilize the momentum of **Suicide Prevention Week 2019 (Sept. 8 – 14)** to raise awareness among your staff and their families and explore expanding efforts to prevent suicide.

As part of statewide activities to recognize Suicide Prevention Week, [Each Mind Matters](https://www.eachmindmatters.org/) distributes a [*Suicide Prevention Week Activation Toolkit*.](http://www.eachmindmatters.org/SPW2019) This year’s theme is “Finding Purpose: Taking care of Ourselves and Others”. Few professions exemplify this theme more than first responders.

We wanted to take this opportunity to share the following resources with you to help raise awareness about suicide prevention and available resources for your staff.

Included with this email are multiple items to support your agency in raising awareness about suicide prevention:

* A letter/email template to be shared as a bulletin from the supervisor’s office to encourage help-seeking, raise awareness about suicide prevention, and remind your staff of available resources (inside and outside of your agency)
* A newsletter template sharing general information on suicide prevention, and raise awareness about available resources
* A listing of a variety of resources to assist law enforcement agencies in developing strategies for suicide prevention.
* A suicide prevention awareness poster with crisis support resources specialized for first responders

We also invite you to join us in a conversation so that we can work together as partners in suicide prevention, for your officers/deputies, as well as for our community. We hope you find these resources useful and look forward to continued conversations so that we can better learn how we can support your staff and those who give so much to our community.

Take good care, stay safe,