

August 9, 2013

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 13-07
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: GRACE A. KILBANE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: National Suicide Prevention Week, September 8-14, 2013, and World
Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, 2013.

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps community that the 39th National Suicide Prevention Week (NSPW), sponsored by the American Association of Suicidology, is September 8-14, 2013, and World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), co-sponsored by the International Association for Suicide Prevention and World Health Organization, is September 10, 2013. This Information Notice provides center staff and students with ideas and resources to support NSPW and WSPD.

2. Background. The Action Alliance and the U.S. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin, released the revised *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* (NSSP)¹ September 10, 2012.

The strategy emphasizes the role everyone can play in protecting their friends, family members, and colleagues from suicide. Suicide is a serious public-health issue, and is the third-leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 24.² Additionally, among those in that age group, there are approximately 100 to 200 attempts for every completed suicide.³

Moreover, suicidal behaviors are particularly common among some subgroups of youth. For example, the suicide rate among American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents and young

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; *2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action*; Rockville, MD. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/national-strategy-suicide-prevention/overview.pdf>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) 2010. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Violence Prevention "Suicide: Facts at a Glance." (2012). Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicide-datasheet-a.PDF>.

adults ages 15 to 34 (31 per 100,000) is 2.5 times higher than the national average for that age group (12.2 per 100,000).⁴

Suicide places a heavy burden on the nation in terms of the emotional suffering that families and communities experience, as well as the economic costs associated with medical care and lost productivity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide results in an estimated \$34.6 billion in combined medical and work-loss expenses.⁵ For each suicide prevented, the United States could save an average of \$1,182,559 in medical costs (\$3,875) and lost productivity (\$1,178,684).⁶

Just as suicide has no single cause, there is no single activity that will prevent suicide. To be successful, prevention efforts must be comprehensive and coordinated across organizations and systems at the national, state/territorial, tribal, and local levels. As with other health-promotion efforts, suicide prevention programs should be culturally attuned and locally relevant.⁷ Job Corps can be one of the organizations to increase awareness about suicide prevention during National Suicide Prevention Week. The theme for this year's NSPW is *Challenging our Assumptions and Moving Forward Together*. The theme for this year's WSPD is *Stigma: A Major Barrier for Suicide Prevention*.

3. Recommendations. Job Corps does a great job supporting suicide prevention as evidenced by the mental-health assessment, promotion, and education efforts provided to both staff and students by Center Mental Health Consultants on each center. However, below are some additional suggestions and resources for centers to enhance and expand upon their current prevention activities for both NSPW and WSPD.

- To learn more about what you can do on your center or in the community for NSPW, download the media and information kit from <http://www.suicidology.org/resources/nspw>.
- To learn more about what you can do on your center or in the community for WSPD, download the tool kit and view planned activities from around the world, including the "Cycle Around the World" core event. This can be found at <http://www.iasp.info/wspd/index.php>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) 2010. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>.

⁶ Investment in Research Saves Lives and Money: Facts about Suicide. Available at www.researchamerica.org/uploads/factsheet21suicide.pdf.

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2012). "2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention: Goals and Objectives for Action." Rockville, MD. Available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/national-strategy-suicide-prevention/overview.pdf>.

- Check out NSPW and WSPD Facebook pages for ideas and encourage students to “like” the page.
 - Let staff and students know about Lifeline e-Cards which can be sent via e-mail to offer support and information to someone you may be concerned about. These can be accessed at <http://ecards.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/#step1>.
 - Hold a health fair on center with a specific focus on suicide prevention.
 - Invite a guest speaker from the community with an expertise in suicide prevention or who may have a special suicide prevention story to share.
 - Let staff and students know about a new suicide prevention iPhone feature with “Siri.” Someone contemplating suicide can tell “Siri” and she will connect the person directly to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
 - Make sure all students and staff members know how to access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-TALK (8255), which is available 24/7.
4. Action. Addresses are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.
5. Expiration Date. September 14, 2013.
6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or via e-mail at abnathy.carol@dol.gov; or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or via e-mail at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.