

## LivingWorks' Role in Helping Create Networks of Safety in Communities

Public health approaches to suicide prevention acknowledge the complex reasons that lead to individuals having thoughts of suicide. These reasons include mental health problems, physical health issues, interpersonal challenges, legal, occupational, educational, and many other upstream factors. This presentation focuses on the application of a public health understanding of suicide to help communities create and maintain a robust network of safety. LivingWorks believes networks of safety are a vital component of ensuring that people with suicide thoughts or experiences are well supported to keep safe, access help, and find hope. Everyone in a community has a role to play in suicide prevention and can learn the skills necessary to successfully contribute to their community's network of safety. The ways in which community members with helping skills, professionals trained in suicide-specific interventions, community service organizations, faith communities and others can coordinate resources and services will be discussed. Barriers and facilitators to those with thoughts of suicide seeking and receiving the supports and services they need to stay safe will be explored. Attendees will be given examples of how to assess available resources and services in their community to identify and begin to fill gaps. Information will be provided about the training programs LivingWorks offers and how each equips community members to apply the intervention skills they learn to building and maintaining a well-functioning network of safety. Brief examples of the evidence base supporting each LivingWorks program, the supports available for community suicide prevention efforts consistent with the network of safety model, and opportunities to partner on future research and evaluation work will conclude the presentation.