

# 8. Sustainability

## **Purpose:**

Ensure the long-term survival and continued effectiveness of the suicide prevention actions, programs, and initiatives in the context of a changing world.

## **Activities:**

- Educate leaders at all levels on the long-term (2 to 4 years beyond initial implementation) impacts to sustaining effective implementations.
- Form partnerships and cooperative arrangements at the federal, state and local level.
- Take action (e.g., advocacy, grants, legislation) to ensure sustainability of the implementation.

## **Resources/Input:**

- Completed community initiatives and programs
- Assessment and evaluation results
- Grant opportunities
- Partnerships and advocacy groups at the federal, state and local level

## **Results/Output:**

- Funds for suicide prevention
- Sustained, effective suicide prevention initiatives and programs

## **Description:**

Step 8 occurs simultaneously with other steps in the implementation process. Frequently, coalitions come together to address a particular problem and dissolve once the problem has been resolved. If your implementations are to continue to be effective, there is a need for evaluation and action. As long as suicide remains a public health problem, there is a need for your community to educate community leaders and to advocate for suicide prevention education, resources and support.