



DIRECTIVE: JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 18- 02

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
 ALL CENTER USERS

FROM: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
 National Director
 Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Promoting Student Safety through Suicide Awareness and Prevention

1. Purpose. To promote safety through suicide awareness and prevention.
2. Background. Between 1999 and 2016, suicide rates increased nationally by 28 percent across all demographic groups.¹ In 2016, for youth between ages 15 and 24 years old, suicide was the second leading cause of death.

Therefore, Job Corps must prepare for suicide-related incidents. The Job Corps Significant Incident Reporting (SIR) System shows an increase in suicide-related incidents between Program Year (PY) 12 and PY 16:²

Program Year	# of Reports of Suicidal Ideation	# of Suicide Attempts	# of Suicides
2012	141	45	3
2013	113	57	0
2014	186	69	4
2015	237	62	1
2016	231	63	3
2017	283	60	0

3. Prevention Efforts. Job Corps has the following resources: Information Notices, Program Instruction Notices, online center-staff trainings, Web site resources, and presentations available on the Job Corps Health and Wellness Web site regarding suicide awareness and prevention. Centers also have Health-Care Guidelines and should have Center Operating Procedures (COPs) for responding to suicidal behaviors or threats. Information is available on the Job Corps Health and Wellness Web site at <https://supportservices.jobcorps.gov>.

¹ National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Suicide: An Overview of Statistics for Suicide. May 2018.
² Job Corps Suicide Data based on the number of incidents reported through the Job Corps Significant Incident Reporting System. Retrieved June 19, 2018.

4. Recommendations. Job Corps centers must continue to increase awareness of factors and circumstances that contribute to suicide risk including:

- Relationship problems
- Loss
- Substance misuse
- Bullying
- Mental health conditions (diagnosed or undiagnosed)

Suicide prevention programs should:

- Provide crisis intervention
- Make referrals to appropriate community treatment facilities
- Include assertiveness training, nonviolent coping- and problem-solving skills training to help students manage life challenges
- Encourage students to develop strong social connections, and teach them how to recognize a crisis and how to respond
- Promote safe and supportive environments, including proper storage of medications and decreased access to lethal weapons
- Strengthen resources for students by connecting with the faith community, local citizen organizations, territorial, and state prevention initiatives

Refer to the attachments for specific suggestions to strengthen suicide-prevention and bullying-prevention efforts.

5. Action. All appropriate staff, particularly Center Mental Health Consultants, Trainee Employment Assistance Program specialists, Disability Coordinators, Safety Personnel, Career Counselors, Residential Living Staff, Health and Wellness Managers, and Admissions Counselors must receive this Information Notice.

6. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

7. Inquiries. Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or via e-mail at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.

Attachment A – Suggestions to Strengthen Suicide Prevention Efforts

Attachment B – Special Consideration of Bullying Prevention