

# Strategic Plan

## Project Safety Net

### Values & Guiding Principles

**Collaboration**  
We effect change through the connections, creativity and contributions of our entire community working together.

**Hope**  
We are committed to preventing the most preventable form of death, suicide.

**Courage**  
We face suicide related stigma with strength and perseverance.

**Integrity**  
We act with honesty and sincerity.

**Cultural Awareness and Engagement**  
Sensitivity and respect for diverse individuals and communities guide our efforts.

**Learning**  
Best practice and on-going reflection advance our work.

### Problem Statement

The Palo Alto community struggles with the pain and loss of youth to suicide. There is urgency for on-going, coordinated community action to promote youth well-being and prevent suicide.

### Strategies

Infuse the Developmental Assets framework in Palo Alto culture and policies  
Create experiences across our community that foster meaningful connections among youth and adults

Train youth and adults in best practices for identifying and responding to emotional and psychological distress

Educate youth, parents and other adults in contact with youth about the risk factors for suicide such as mental health conditions, substance use and other stress factors

Engage in a community-wide storytelling and listening campaign through a variety of media  
Learn and partner with community and faith groups to develop culturally specific education and outreach

Collaborate with the community, police department, media and Caltrain to reduce access to the train tracks and other means of lethal harm

Create a clear map of our community's youth mental health services and identify gaps  
Advocate for increased and accessible mental health services for all youth

### Anticipated Changes

Youth report increased personal and trusting connections to adults and peers in the Palo Alto community in order to foster youth well-being

Peers and adults in contact with youth are knowledgeable and equipped to respond to their distress or thoughts of suicide

Reduction of mental health stigma leading to acceptance and use of mental health services

Access to means of lethal harm is reduced

Our community's mental health services are robust, coordinated and accessible to all youth