



NORTH DAKOTA: Law Enforcement Agencies Use New Tool to Prevent Officer Suicide

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[Grand Forks Herald](#) [1]

Law enforcement agencies in North Dakota are using a new interactive tool to help prevent officer suicide. The Fargo Police Department and Cass County Sheriff's Office are encouraging their staff to complete an online questionnaire that screens for signs of depression and other mental health conditions. After completing the questionnaire, those who show signs of mental health issues or suicide risk are connected with mental health services. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention developed the tool, called the Interactive Screening Program. Officer participation in the program is voluntary, and questionnaire responses are anonymous. "Anonymity is helpful in law enforcement where officers might be hesitant to ask for help," said Sherri Hashbarger, spokesperson for The Village Family Service Center, a local behavioral health nonprofit involved in the initiative.

Spark Extra! Learn more about the [Interactive Screening Program](#) [2].

Settings: Law Enforcement
Strategies: Identify and Assist, Screening and Assessment

Links within this resource

[1] <https://www.grandforksherald.com/lifestyle/health/4464161-law-enforcement-agencies-use-new-tool-prevent-officer-suicide>

[2] <https://afsp.org/our-work/interactive-screening-program/>

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