

A Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection



The Surgeon General’s Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection calls for action essential to our nation’s health, safety, and prosperity. The evidence of the severe consequences of social isolation, loneliness, and overall social disconnection has been building for decades. The framework for a national strategy not only recognizes the critical importance of advancing social connection, but also serves as a commitment to invest in and take actions establishing that our connection with others is a core value of this nation.

The framework includes six foundational pillars and a series of key recommendations, organized according to stakeholder group, to support a whole-of-society approach to heal our epidemic of loneliness and social isolation. Individuals, organizations, and governments can use this framework to propel the critical work of strengthening social connection and community.


Office of the
U.S. Surgeon General

The Six Pillars to Advance
Social Connection



<p>1</p> <p>Strengthen Social Infrastructure in Local Communities</p> <p>Design the built environment to promote social connection</p> <p>Establish and scale community connection programs</p> <p>Invest in local institutions that bring people together</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Enact Pro-Connection Public Policies</p> <p>Adopt a “Connection-in-All-Policies” approach</p> <p>Advance policies that minimize harm from disconnection</p> <p>Establish cross-departmental leadership at all levels of government</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mobilize the Health Sector</p> <p>Train health care providers</p> <p>Assess and support patients</p> <p>Expand public health surveillance and interventions</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Reform Digital Environments</p> <p>Require data transparency</p> <p>Establish and implement safety standards</p> <p>Support development of pro-connection technologies</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Deepen Our Knowledge</p> <p>Develop and coordinate a national research agenda</p> <p>Accelerate research funding</p> <p>Increase public awareness</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Build a Culture of Connection</p> <p>Cultivate values of kindness, respect, service, and commitment to one another</p> <p>Model connection values in positions of leadership and influence</p> <p>Expand conversation on social connection in schools, workplaces, and communities</p>

For more information on the Framework for a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection, read the Surgeon General’s Advisory:



Resources for Supporting Social Connection

This list is not comprehensive, nor does including or linking to any specific resource or example indicate endorsement by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of the Office of the Surgeon General. Rather, these resources are intended to share tools and information that may be helpful in implementing the recommendations contained in the [Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community](#).

*If you or a loved one is struggling with loneliness or isolation, the [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

Community-Based Organizations

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Social Connectedness Administration for Community Living](#)
- [Administration for Community Living -Commit to Connect – Combatting Social Isolation and Loneliness in All Communities](#)
- [The Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(The Partnership Center\) – Youth Mental Health and Well-being in Faith and Community Settings: Practicing Connectedness](#)
- [AECF & Center for the Study of Social Policy – Fostering Resident Voice and Influence](#)
- [Children's Trust Fund Alliance – Building Healthy Communities](#)

Public Health Professionals, Health Workers, Health Systems, & Insurers

- [Foundation for Social Connection – Systems of Cross-sector Integration and Action Across the Lifespan \(Social Framework\)-The Health Sector](#)
- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine – Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country](#)
- [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors – Building Resilient Inclusive Communities](#)
- [World Health Organization – A Toolkit to Implement Social Prescribing](#)

Researchers

- [Global Initiative on Loneliness and Isolation – Position Statements on Addressing Social Isolation, Loneliness, and the Power of Human Connection](#)
- [Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network – Interventions to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness: Lessons from Programs Around the Globe](#)
- [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and – Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System – Assessment of Social Isolation and Loneliness in Research](#)
- [National Institutes of Health – Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery](#)
- [Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness – Promote Research: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection](#)

Governments & Philanthropy

- [Healthy Places by Design – Socially Connected Communities](#)
- [ODPHP – The Federal Plan for Equitable Long-Term Recovery and Resilience](#)
- [Global Initiative on Loneliness and Isolation – Position Statements on Addressing Social Isolation, Loneliness, and the Power of Human Connection](#)
- [Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness – 2023-2024 Policy Priorities](#)

