



LOCAL OUTREACH TO SUICIDE SURVIVORS (LOSS) TEAM TRAINER CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION PURPOSE

The LOSS Team Trainer Certification is designed to formally recognize and equip experienced LOSS Team leaders to train, consult, and support emerging LOSS Teams and statewide postvention systems. This certification ensures that trainers are thoroughly grounded in the principles of active postvention, skilled in curriculum delivery, and committed to the ethical and sustainable expansion of LOSS Team services. Certified Trainers serve as trusted representatives of the national LOSS Team model and are entrusted to preserve its integrity with compassion and excellence.

By completing this certification, individuals demonstrate a high level of competency in suicide postvention practices, trauma-informed care, ethical leadership, and systems-level thinking - empowering them to foster strong community partnerships, guide new teams, and shape a more coordinated national response to suicide loss.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

- **National Recognition:** Get featured on LOSSteam.com to enhance your visibility and credibility in the field.
- **Referrals and Opportunities:** Receive referrals for local and statewide training, consultation, and team development requests.
- **Certification Seal:** Use the official LOSS Team Trainer seal in your materials to signify excellence.
- **Collaboration Network:** Connect with fellow trainers through bi-monthly meetings focused on shared learning and best practices.
- **Continued Learning and Support:** Access exclusive resources, podcasts, and continuing education to sharpen your skills.
- **Personalized Coaching:** Benefit from one-on-one mentorship throughout the certification process and beyond.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Must have completed at least:
 - One evidence-based suicide prevention training
 - One evidence-based suicide intervention training
 - One program or training in trauma-informed care
 - One evidence-based trauma-informed grief skills program
 - One LOSS Team training presented by a Certified LOSS Team Trainer (Dr. Frank Campbell, Dr. Don Belau, or a recognized trainer listed on LOSSteam.com)
- Experience in a leadership role on a LOSS Team
- Significant experience responding to scenes as a LOSS Team member
- Lived experience as a suicide loss survivor (survivor definition based on [*The Continuum of "Survivorship": Definitional Issues in the Aftermath of Suicide*](#) by Julie Cerel et al)
- Two letters of recommendation:
 - One from a LOSS Team community partner (such as a coroner, medical examiner, law enforcement officer, or another approved stakeholder)
 - One from a long-term LOSS Team volunteer who has worked on your team

We suggest using the two paragraphs (at the beginning of this document) explaining the certification process when requesting these recommendation letters.

You will be contacted shortly after submitting your [online application](#) and, if approved, an interview will be scheduled. Following the interview you will be contacted by Postvention Consulting, LLC. regarding next steps. If approved, you will be asked to pay a one-time charge of \$750 and can then begin work on your certification.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY TIME, FORMAT AND FRAMEWORK

Once the application is approved, the applicant must begin the seven-module curriculum within six months. The program must be completed within a period of no less than four months and no more than twelve months from the start date.

Format will be Virtual and In-person (co-present a LOSS Team training with a current trainer)

The LOSS Team Trainer Certification equips experienced leaders to train, consult, and support emerging LOSS Teams and postvention systems through a structured seven-module program.

Participants will engage in required readings, view relevant podcasts, complete written reflections, join virtual discussions with national trainers, develop a personalized self-wellness plan, and receive one-on-one coaching for each module. The certification process culminates in three evaluated presentations:

1. A virtual presentation of a mock LOSS Team training,
2. A virtual presentation outlining a mock proposed statewide LOSS Team strategy, and
3. A virtual or in-person co-facilitation of a training for an emerging LOSS Team alongside a Certified LOSS Team Trainer.

Presentations are evaluated by certified trainers using a standardized rubric.

The seven-module curriculum emphasizes applied knowledge, ethical leadership, and a commitment to sustainable, trauma-informed postvention practices.

MODULES

1. FOUNDATIONS OF SUICIDE POSTVENTION

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Define suicide postvention and explain its role in suicide prevention.
- Define “survivors” and identify the unique needs of those bereaved by suicide.
- Recognize the goals of effective postvention efforts.
- Understand the guiding principles that inform postvention practices.

2. THE LOSS TEAM MODEL & ACTIVE POSTVENTION

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Explain the history and purpose of the LOSS Team model.
- Describe the concept of *active postvention* and how it differs from traditional grief support.
- Identify the essential components of a LOSS Team response.
- Recognize key principles in building rapport with survivors in the immediate aftermath of a suicide.

3. BUILDING A LOSS TEAM INFRASTRUCTURE

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Guide an emerging LOSS Team on how to form a comprehensive launch plan.
- Identify key roles needed for an effective LOSS Team.
- Share strategies to help emerging Teams build stakeholder relationships.
- Explore best practices for establishing an on-call infrastructure.
- Adapt their approach to fit the size and needs of each community.

4. VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART OF EVERY LOSS TEAM

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Explain and provide examples of best practices for recruiting and onboarding volunteers.
- Provide best practices for the initial training of on-scene volunteers.
- Identify their own trauma-informed approach to training on-scene volunteers.
- Share how to effectively facilitate post-scene debriefings with volunteers.

5. GRIEF INTEGRATION & THE CONTINUUM OF SURVIVOR CARE

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Help emerging Teams understand how trauma and suicide loss can affect survivors differently over time.
- Explain the difference between resolving grief and integrating it into one's life.
- Highlight common challenges and stigmas experienced by suicide loss survivors.
- Describe different grief models and discuss which one(s) may be most effective for equipping lay volunteers who do follow-up work with suicide loss survivors.
- Share appropriate long-term support resources and referral options for survivors.

6. ETHICS, BOUNDARIES & SELF-WELLNESS IN POSTVENTION WORK

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Advise Teams on how to handle challenging situations, such as knowing someone personally, maintaining confidentiality, and obtaining permission to share information.
- Provide insights on signs of and care for burnout, secondary trauma, and compassion fatigue.
- Encourage self-awareness of personal limits and boundaries.
- Share a basic, sustainable self-care plan for ongoing wellness.

7. BUILDING STATE-LEVEL POSTVENTION

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Understand the role of postvention within public health and crisis response efforts.
- Identify key components of a sustainable statewide postvention infrastructure.
- Develop strategies to work with other agencies and groups.
- Advocate for inclusion of postvention in state and local suicide prevention plans.
- Contribute to network building at the systems level.

ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

- Complete all Core Modules of Curriculum Framework
- Present a mock LOSS Team training as if providing this to an emerging LOSS Team.
 - This should be approx. 1-hour long and is just an overview – not a full LOSS Team training.
 - Include appropriate tee-up of previous consultations with fictitious emerging LOSS Team, audience size, time for each section, and other relevant facts.
 - Demonstrate applied knowledge of LOSS Teams and practices aligned with [LOSS Team Trainer and Consulting Principles](#).
 - Demonstrate a variety of engaging presentation methods.
 - Respond to ethical dilemmas and unpredictable dynamics of LOSS Team training.
- Present a mock statewide LOSS Team approach as if presenting to Statewide champions/stakeholders.
 - Include appropriate tee-up of previous consultations with fictitious state-level stakeholders. “Set the stage” for the audience.
 - Share population groups considered, collaborative partnerships, and components of the statewide approach you developed.
- Present with an existing National LOSS Team Trainer at least once.
- Reflect critically on their own responses and identify areas for growth throughout the certification process.
- Reflect on their personal and professional growth throughout the program.
- Receive feedback, certification, and next-step recommendations.

Completion of the Core Modules and the two required mock presentations will be evaluated by at least two current or former LOSS Team trainers, with the presentation evaluations possibly conducted by different trainers.

MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION

ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION (4 HOURS MINIMUM)

- Complete at least four hours of continuing education annually related to:
 - Suicide postvention
 - Grief and trauma-informed care
 - Volunteer management or adult education strategies
 - May include webinars, workshops, professional trainings, or conference sessions

ONGOING TRAINING ENGAGEMENT

- Facilitate or co-facilitate at least **one LOSS Team training** (or significant module) **every year**
- Submit participant Trainer Feedback evaluations after every LOSS Team training to Postvention Consulting

MAINTAIN ENGAGEMENT WITH FELLOW TRAINERS

- Attend the majority (more than half) of bi-monthly Trainer & Consultant meetings, quarterly Lunch & Learns, and the annual LOSS Team Conference.

ADHERENCE TO LOSS TEAM TRAINER PRINCIPLES

- Uphold the values outlined in the [LOSS Team Trainer Principles document](#), including:
 - Ethical representation of LOSS
 - Respectful use of survivor stories
 - Culturally inclusive and trauma-informed training delivery

RECERTIFICATION CYCLE

- **Every 3 Years:** Trainers must complete a recertification form documenting:
 - Continuing education hours
 - List of LOSS Team trainings provided including location and date
 - Any updates to contact or professional information
 - Trainers may be asked to submit updated sample materials or briefly demonstrate core training content (via video or live observation)