

## **CREATING A WATER SAFETY PLAN FOR THE U.S. IS A BIG TASK. WE ARE READY FOR THE CHALLENGE.**

The end of 2021 marks the end of the intense time commitment of our talented Working Group members. Simply put, there would be no plan if it weren't for these amazing water safety professionals. Thank you! If you haven't seen who has been involved, click [here](#) to learn more.

In this newsletter we'll provide a brief outline of next steps and provide you with ideas and tools for implementing the plan in your community and state. A critical part of implementation will be communication - stay tuned for a social media toolkit, arriving in your inbox soon. We'll be providing simple content, which you can customize with your logo to signify your support for the plan.

## **Working Group Updates**

Over 100 recommendations were submitted in Round 1! These include evidence-based recommendations for action, and the identification of gaps in knowledge where more research is needed. The Steering Committee has provided feedback on all the proposed recommendations and the Working Groups are currently reviewing feedback as Round 2. The process was delayed slightly as the Steering Committee pivoted on some evaluation and development metrics, based on feedback from the Working Groups. This reflects our constant

check-and-balance system to ensure that all voices are being heard. The creation of a plan which has continuity and professional integrity is our guiding principle.

During Round 3, the draft recommendations will be reviewed and moved towards consistent language and format by a team consisting of the Steering Committee, External Reviewers, and the Working Group Chairs.

We don't know how many recommendations will be in the final plan, but anticipate that some consolidation will occur across Working Groups. We're also looking at ways of segregating the evidence-based recommendations from the gaps in research in the final report so that individuals, local, state, and national organizations have a clear picture of what is currently possible, based on the evidence, and where more evidence is needed for future planning.





## **Your Expertise is Valued. Your Voice is Needed!**

Once the review process is complete, we will begin a modified Delphi Procedure as a validation and feedback process. In our last newsletter, we outlined the importance of your involvement in the process. Online surveys will be available for one month for you to complete and provide your feedback in the form of ratings and providing open-ended feedback.

If you would like to receive a survey, please sign up for our newsletter on the [website](#). Our goal is feedback from all 50 states - we'll keep you informed of how we are doing.

After the first round of surveying, the results will be shared with participants in

aggregate form. The surveys will open for a second time for participants to resubmit their ratings and provide any final feedback. The results of this open surveying process will help the Steering Committee, Working Group Chairs, and our Blue-Ribbon Panel make final decisions about the USNWSAP.

Work on the plan continues, but the time to begin preparing for implementing the plan in your area is NOW.

## YOUR Role in Implementing the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan

As big of a project developing the plan has been, the real work will be in implementing the plan.

### Steps you can take now:

-Start talking to your organization, community, county, and state to pave the way. Let them know the plan will be released this year and begin to factor in budgeting and manpower planning for water safety assessment and implementation.

-Pull together a group of stakeholders and begin a situational analysis of the risks, existing activity, and gaps to identify what is needed in your community. We do not expect every recommendation in the U.S. National Water Safety Action Plan to fit every situation. What works in communities, counties, or at a state level Florida may not work in Maine. Hawaii has very different risk factors from Alaska, and Chicago is not Los Angeles. We believe that communities, counties, and states are best positioned to identify the risks and select and implement the recommendations most appropriate for their environment. We're working on collecting more resources on howto conduct situational analysis, but as a starting point, here are two good resources from [End Drowning Now](#) and [New Mexico State University](#).

-Begin identifying funding and grant opportunities to support implementation. We all know how difficult it is to find funding specifically for water safety programs, so we'll be passing on any opportunities we identify.

Annual grants for states and municipalities from the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, through the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, often go unclaimed.

-Share this newsletter by clicking [here](#) for the link. We're on Instagram now at [@usnwsap](#), on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/USWaterSafetyPlan> and Twitter at [@USWaterSafetyP1](#) - give us a shout out and share what you are doing to increase water safety in your community!

## YOUR HELP IS CRITICAL

We believe that capturing the knowledge and experience of water safety professionals across the United States is essential in creating a water safety plan which is comprehensive, realistic, and executable. You can help by putting your name forward as a key informant or reviewer. Thanks to all of you who have already contacted us, if we have not been in touch yet, we will be reaching out to you shortly. You can help promote the development process to ensure we reach and include the input of water safety professionals at all levels across the country. We are also still looking for funders to help underwrite the administrative costs related to developing the plan.

We invite you to visit the website at [www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap](http://www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap) for more information and to indicate your interest in sharing your expertise.