

# THE "SILENT EPIDEMIC"

## YOUTH SUICIDE



Presentation

**Attorney Derek Schmidt – Kansas  
Kansas Task Force – Youth Suicide  
Prevention  
October 18, 2018**

# THANK YOU

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We are proud to provide this presentation to the AG - Kansas Task Force addressing youth suicide.

- *What has your organization been doing that works?*
- *What hurdles have you encountered*
- *Recommendations for Kansas?*

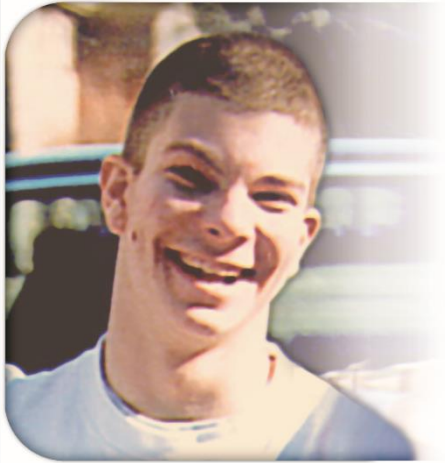


I want to begin with a brief introduction to The Jason Foundation, Inc. – or JFI as our friends call us.





**JFI...**  
**THE BEGINNING...**  
**JULY 16, 1997**



JFI...  
Today...

**As one of the oldest and largest youth suicide prevention non-profits in the nation – 21 years of service – JFI is proud to be recognized as a national leader in youth suicide awareness and prevention.**

**OUR MODEL**

**OUR FOOTPRINT**



## OUR MODEL

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National Community Affiliates

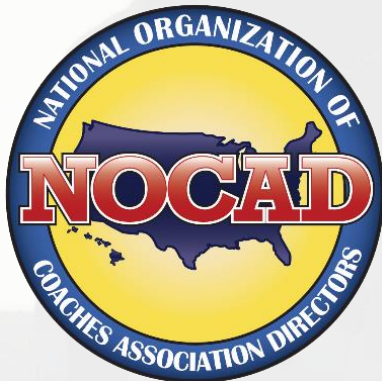
### FIVE STONES



## OUR MODEL

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### National Awareness Affiliates



ATTORNEYS  
GENERAL  

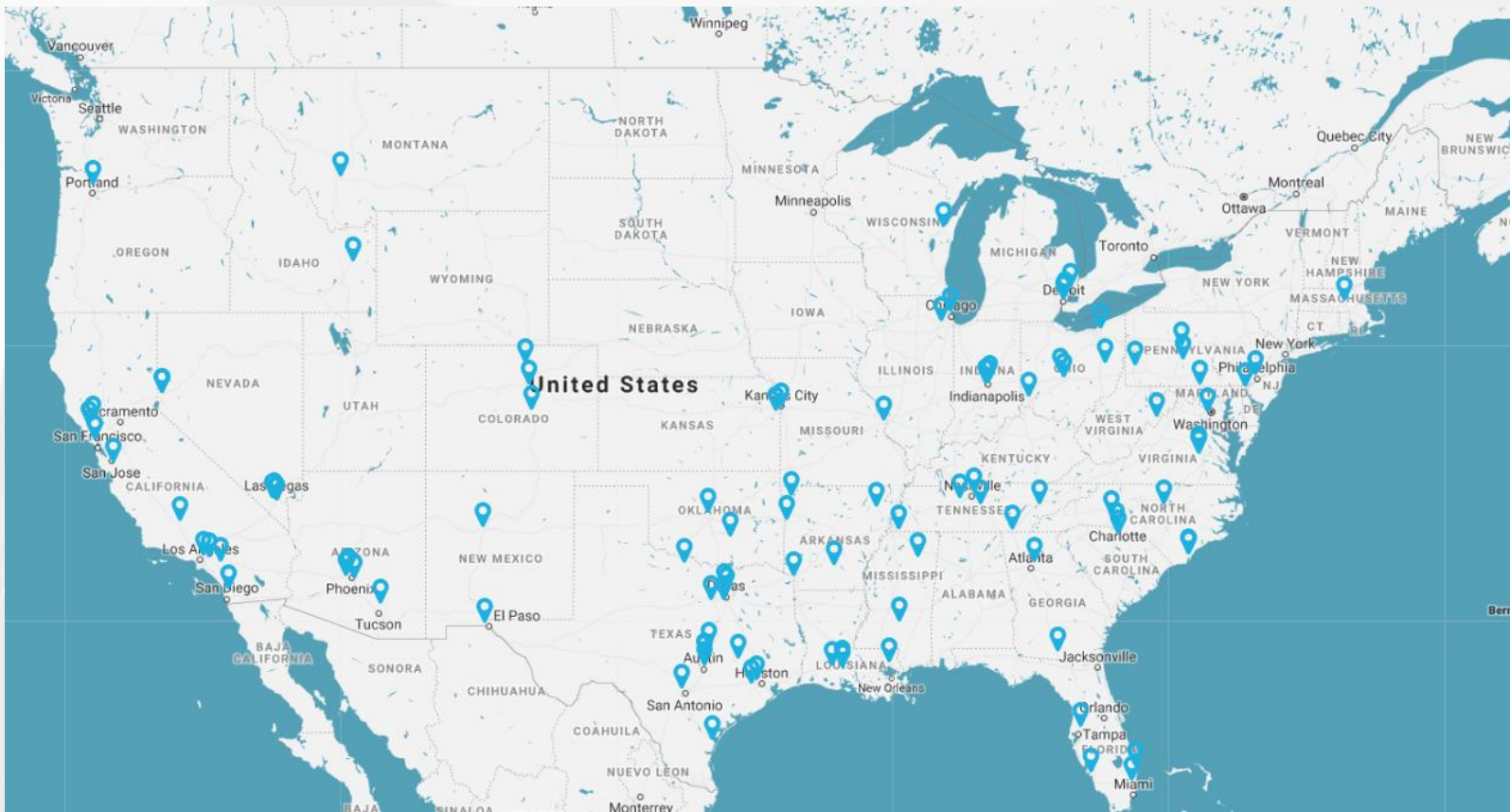
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STATE PROGRAM

e4health™

## OUR FOOTPRINT

**125 Affiliate Offices + JFI Corporate  
Located in 33 states serving all 50**





# What's Working

For

The Jason Foundation

*The CDC has suggested that any prevention effort / program for adolescents should utilize all interconnected sources who daily impact a young person's life.*

## Triangle of Prevention

Youth

Educators /  
Youth Workers

Parents /  
Communities



## Youth

**School-Based Curriculum**

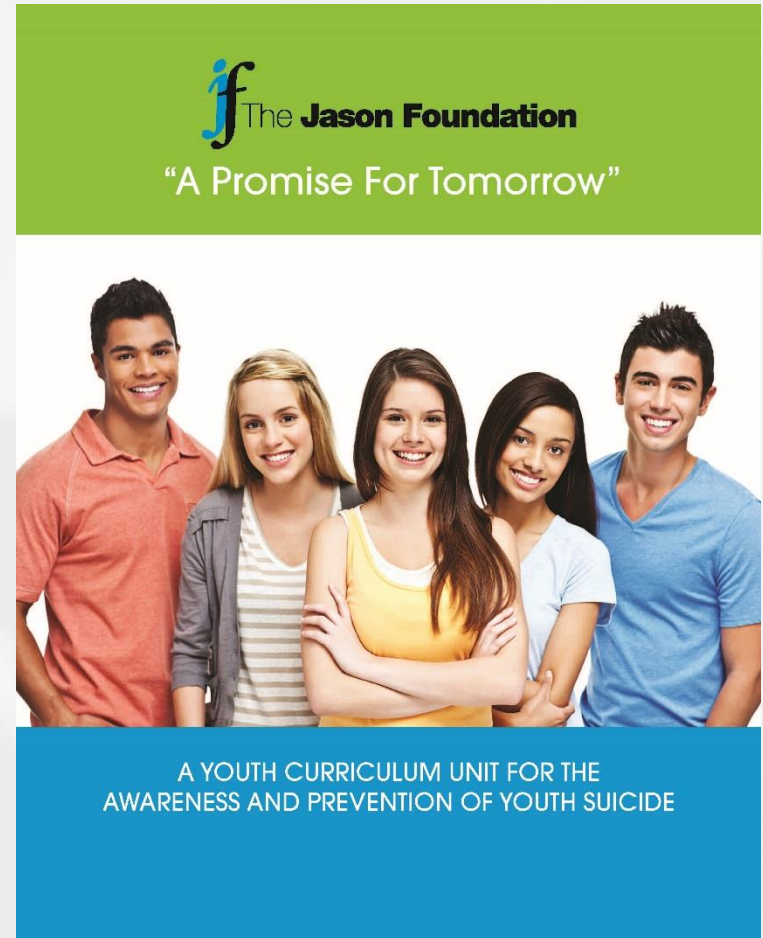
**"B1" JFI & Rascal Flatts**

**#iwontbesilent / # wewontbesilent**



## A PROMISE FOR TOMORROW

A school-based curriculum that provides a 3 to 5 lesson unit in positive peer support awareness and prevention of youth suicide. It stresses how to help a friend who may be thinking about suicide.





## Rascal Flatts / Jason Foundation



Awareness and education are key to preventing youth suicide, the 2nd leading cause of death for young people ages 10-24.

Someone You Know  
May Need a Friend



# LEARN

how you can **B1** for a friend  
[rascalflattsB1.com](http://rascalflattsB1.com)





#IWONTBESILENT

THE CHALLENGE

CLARK'S STORY

WARNING SIGNS

DONATE NOW

#IWONTBESILENT  
#WEWONTBESILENT

 *powered by*  
The Jason Foundation

**#IWONTBESILENT IS THE JASON FOUNDATION'S  
CHALLENGE TO EVERYONE TO START A NATIONAL  
CONVERSATION ABOUT THE "SILENT EPIDEMIC" OF  
YOUTH SUICIDE.**

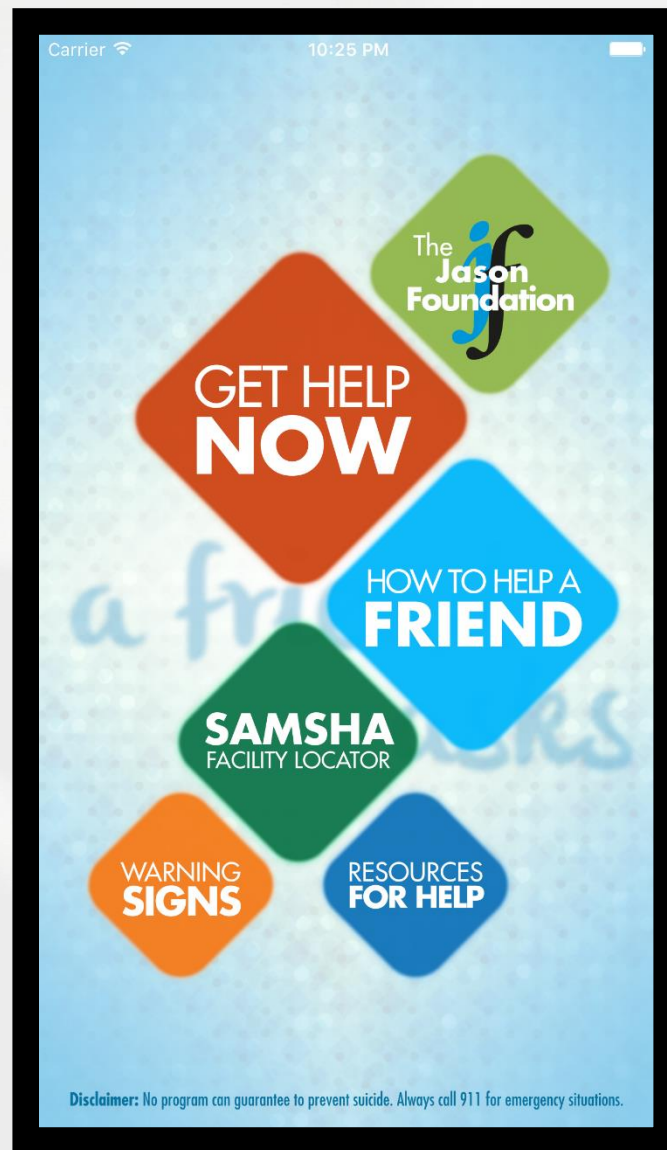
## “A Friend Asks”

A smartphone application  
Android or Apple

Free Download

JFI Website, Apple Store, or  
Android Market

“Warning Signs – do’s and don’ts –  
How to Help a Friend- Resources -  
Instant Connectivity to National  
Talkline / Crisis Line



**Educators /  
Youth Workers**

**Training for Educators to be  
better able to recognize and  
appropriately respond is critical  
in addressing Youth Suicide**

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**The Jason Flatt Act**

**- 2007 / Tennessee -**

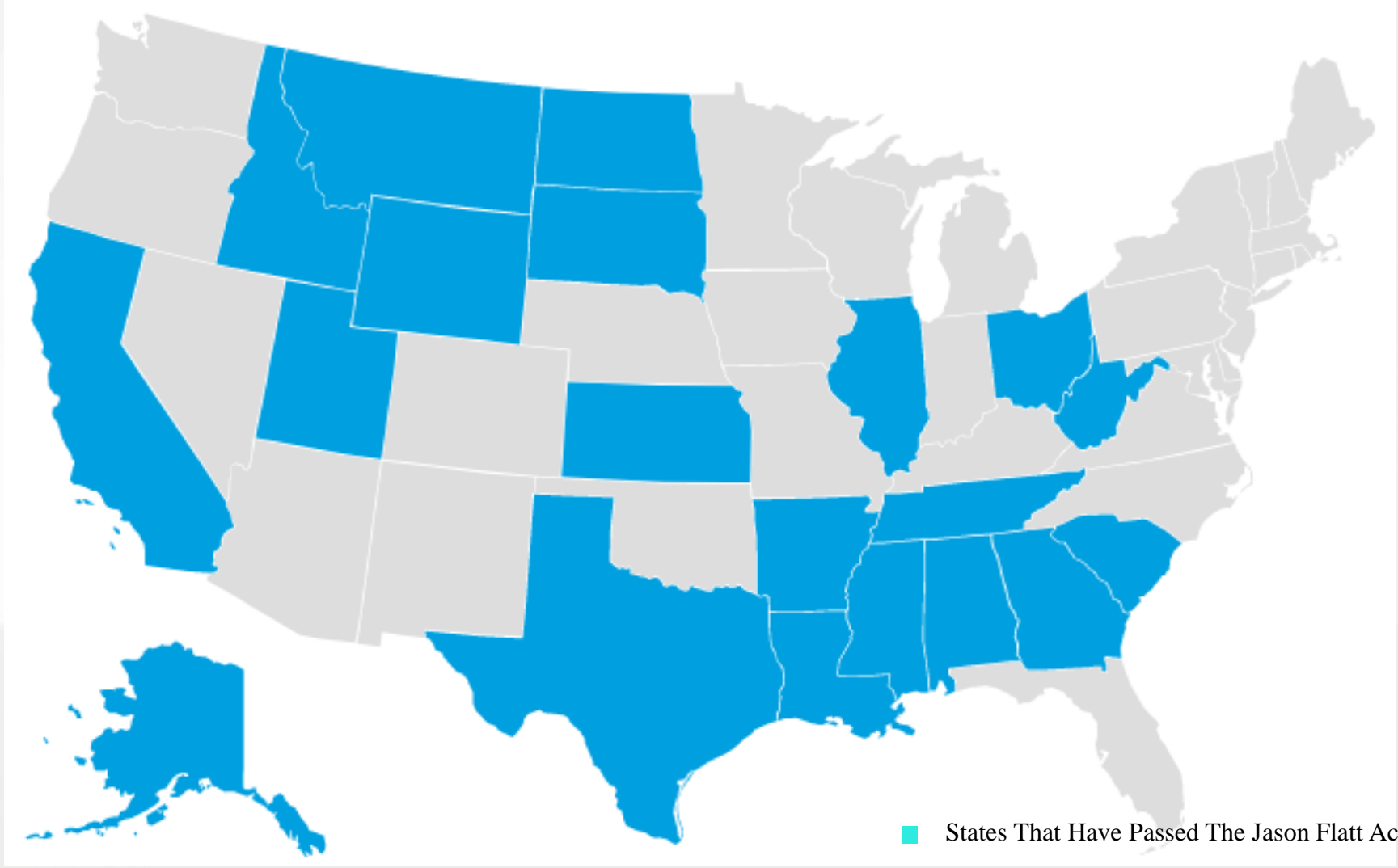
## THE JASON FLATT ACT

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Since that date, Louisiana, Mississippi, California, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Utah, South Carolina, Alaska, Ohio, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Georgia, Texas, South Dakota, Alabama, Kansas and Idaho have passed and signed into Law The Jason Flatt Act – 20 states total.



# THE JASON FLATT ACT



## Parents / Communities

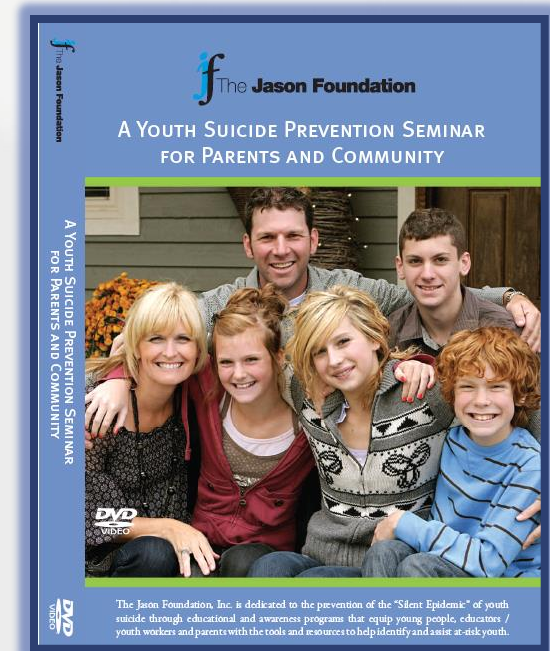


Raising Awareness and Providing the information, tools and resources to help better be able to recognize and appropriately respond to young people who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide.



## PARENT / COMMUNITY SEMINAR

If parents are not aware of the danger of youth suicide, they do not look for, nor would they even recognize “signs of concern.” This program helps bring an awareness of the danger while providing practical tools and resources to help a parent identify possible “signs of concern” in their son or daughter. Possible resources for help are also identified and discussed.





When the Triangle of Prevention is fully implemented AND becomes a regular activity...

A community has built an effective suicide prevention initiative.



## Hurdles??

- 1) Dealing with Myths**
- 2) Reluctance of schools to implement (usually based on myths above)**
- 3) Legislative Hurdles**
- 4) Territorial Behavior – both from state and non-profits**

# KANSAS...

Full Implementation and Accountability  
Of The Jason Flatt Act

Student Awareness Involvement  
B1 or #iwontbesilent  
Type campaigns



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Us



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