

Preparing for 988 Implementation NASMHPD 2021 Conference Matt Taylor, Director of Network Development

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

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Lifeline: America's Public Mental Health Safety Net

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To effectively reach and serve all persons who could be at risk of suicide in the United States through a national network of crisis call centers.





How Does 988 Build & Expand on the Lifeline?

- Scale of access and visibility: 3-digit number intended to penetrate public awareness
- Scope of service: suicide and mental health crises; emphasis on crisis care continuum
- Equity of access: essential that service is equally accessible to all persons in suicidal/mental health crisis (must reach and serve persons with functional, linguistic and access needs)
- Access to omni-channel services: expansion to assure accessibility to call, chat, text and follow-up capabilities
- Access to specialized services: to serve LGBTQ+ youth, AI/AN people, communities
 of color, rural individuals and other high-risk populations, such as older adults, youth,
 neurodiverse individuals, etc.
- Stakeholder investment in service: greater public funding (e.g, Federal and State) and public visibility will impact service expectations/standards for network performance

In the 988 Planning Grants, states will submit Implementation Plans based on Eight Core Planning Considerations



- 1. **24/7 statewide coverage** for 9-8-8 calls, chats, texts and follow-up services
- 2. Strategies for **diversified funding streams** for 988 centers, including consideration of 988 fees
- 3. Planning based on call, chat, and text **volume growth projections** provided by the Lifeline
- 4. States must support Lifeline's operational, clinical and performance standards
- 5. Multi-stakeholder **988 implementation coalitions** must be formed
- 6. 988 centers must maintain local **referral listings**, and assure **linkages to local crisis services**
- 7. **Follow-up services** based on Lifeline best practices and guidelines
- 8. **Consistency in public messaging** regarding range of services and how 988 is different from 911



Thank you for supporting national and state efforts to prepare for, and implement 988

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