

# 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Implementation Act



The lack of an effective and widely available mental health crisis system leads to tragic results for people in crisis.

Suicide rates have increased by 33% in the last two decades, and the CDC reports a death from suicide every 11 minutes.



## 988

Starting in July 2022, 9-8-8 will serve as national calling code for mental health crises.

Similar to 911, the 988 response system will connect individuals in crisis to mental health crisis care.



**Congress must act to ensure that people who call 988 can get help. Sponsored by Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D-CA), the 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Implementation Act will –**

Fund the launch, infrastructure, and modernization of the new hotline through:

- Establishment of a Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office
- Support for 250+ regional and local NSPL call centers
- Permanent authorization of \$2.23 billion in Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funding with a 10% crisis services set-aside
- Formation of a new pilot program for mobile crisis response, peer teams, and in-home crisis stabilization
- Resources for specialized services for underserved populations

Amend and develop Medicaid with measures such as:

- Financing for regional and local NSPL call center operations, and crisis programs
- Excluding crisis centers from the IMD payment prohibition
- Expanding the existing 10 state Medicaid Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC) demonstration to permit any state to participate

Reinforce behavioral health crisis response with:

- Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Capital Development Grants for crisis centers and call centers
- Behavioral health workforce training program expansions
- Access to and oversight of mental health and substance use disorder crisis response services