



## Who We Are & What We Do

For 50 years, Vibrant Emotional Health, has been at the forefront of promoting emotional well-being for all people. As leaders, advocates, educators, and innovators in mental health, we have been raising awareness and offering support to those in need. We work every single day to help save lives and assist people to get care anytime, anywhere and in any way that works for them. We are unwavering in our belief that everyone can achieve emotional wellness with the right care and support.

As part of our work, we administer programs such as:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** As one of our flagship programs, Vibrant has been the sole Administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline since its inception in 2005. Funded by SAMHSA, the Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for people in emotional distress. The Lifeline consists of an expansive network of over 170 local- and state-funded crisis centers located across the United States. The counselors at these local crisis centers answer calls and chats from people in distress that the Lifeline receives every day. The Lifeline's crisis centers provide the specialized care and resource referrals in the local community with the support of a national network.
- **Disaster Distress Helpline:** Vibrant is also the proud administrator of the Disaster Distress Helpline, funded by SAMHSA, which provides free, multi-lingual crisis counseling and support to people across the United States and its territories who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

For more information, please visit [www.vibrant.org](http://www.vibrant.org).

## Our Impact

We offer life-changing and life-saving support to over 2.5 million people across the country each year. This translates to thousands of Americans finding the services and tools they need to live more vibrant lives each day. Including:

- Over 2.2 million people a year receive confidential emotional support through our state-of-the-art crisis services, which include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Disaster Distress Helpline and NYC Well.
- Approximately 50,000 individuals and families have received tools and skills to lead healthy and fulfilled lives through our local community service programs.
- Thousands of people are helped every year through our advocacy and education work in support of better mental health access and care.

## Our Request

Vibrant strongly supported efforts by Congress (the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, P.L. 116-172) and the FCC to designate 9-8-8 as the new, easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code for the Lifeline because 9-8-8 will help increase access to crisis services and help increase the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts. It is critical that Congress work to fulfill the promise of 9-8-8 and successfully implement this lifesaving resource.

To that end, Vibrant requests:

- **\$240m in funding for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network operations.** The need for significant investment in the nation's crisis response network through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is ongoing. Vibrant requests \$240m in funding within FY22 for the administration of the Lifeline. This funding would pay for:
  - Telecom costs for each contact to the Lifeline and for routing to the local crisis centers;
  - Supporting specialized national services such as national back up centers to answer calls, chats, and texts;
  - Multi-lingual assistance that supports the multichannel availability of 988;
  - A greater role in the training, quality improvement and quality assurance for centers within the Lifeline network so that individuals may receive tailored support that meets the high-quality standards outlined in suicide prevention and crisis intervention;
  - Development and maintenance of a unified technology platform and data analytics for all 988 services to ensure a timely and reliable response for 988 contacts;
  - Supporting extended administrator engagement with network centers, and national, state and local partners to address national and regional needs and challenges to maintain and bolster 988 infrastructure
- **\$441m in funding for crisis centers** within the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network sufficient to build the needed capacity to respond to individuals in a suicidal or mental health crisis. Local crisis centers provide tools that build resiliency and connects to local resources to keep individuals safe and communities strong. State budgets have been negatively impacted by COVID and require additional support for the anticipated demand for mental health crisis services, including hotline services. Federal funding is necessary to ensure that individuals in crisis receive timely, tailored support rooted in best practices that is connected to their local resources irrespective of a state's ability to support local crisis centers.

*If you have additional questions regarding this document, please reach out to Laura Evans, Program Manager of National and State Policy, at [levans@vibrant.org](mailto:levans@vibrant.org).*