

# 988 State Planning Grant (Feb 21- Jan 22)

## Grant Summary

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The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health in partnership with the Helpline Center applied for and was awarded the 988 Planning Grant. The 988 Planning Grant will assist states in planning for the implementation of a new, national, three-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide response (988).

In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, replacing the current phone number of 1-800-283-TALK (8255). The goal of the 988 crisis line is the following:

- Connect a person in a mental health crisis to a trained counselor who can address their immediate needs and help connect them to ongoing care.
- Reduce healthcare spending with more cost-effective early intervention.
- Reduce use of law enforcement, public health, and other safety resources.
- Meet the growing need for crisis intervention.
- Help end stigma toward those seeking or accessing mental healthcare.

## Funding

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The Department of Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health was awarded \$130,000 to support planning and technical assistance. This funding is available from February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. The grant was funded through private donations and issued by Vibrant Emotional Health, the nonprofit administrator of the Lifeline.

## Grant Activities

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Grant activities include developing plans to address key coordination, capacity building, funding, and communication strategies that are foundational to the launching of 988 in July 2022. Through a stakeholder coalition the following will be completed:

- Develop a roadmap that addresses key coordination, capacity, funding, and communication strategies supporting the launch of 988 on or before July 16, 2022.
- Plan for long-term improvement of in-state answer rates for 988.
- Identify options for a platform that provides state-wide, real-time inventory of behavioral health services to increase access to treatment and support crisis counselors in connecting callers with local resources.

## Partners

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The Division will collaborate and partner with a planning stakeholder coalition including representation from the state's only Lifeline member (Helpline Center); state suicide prevention coordinators from the Department of Health and Department of Social Services; representatives from mobile crisis providers from the largest community in South Dakota as well as from a mid-sized, rural community; representation from crisis systems serving individuals in a behavioral health crisis; representatives from law enforcement; statewide 911 representative; representation from the publicly funded community mental health and substance use provider system; representatives from psychiatric inpatient providers; tribal representatives; peer based organization, and individuals with lived experience of suicide loss and attempt.



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