



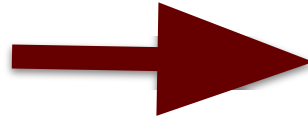
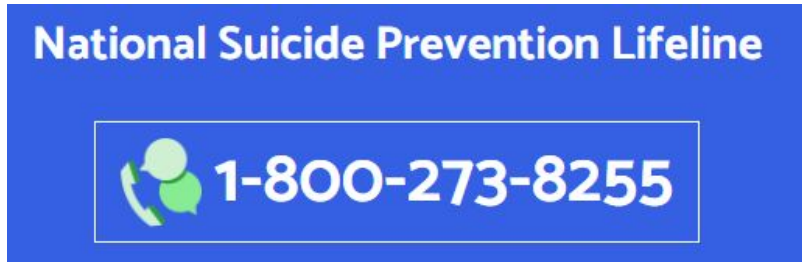
988 Implementation: State Planning Grant

Alexandra Herrera, Crisis Administrator

9-8-8 Legislation

National Suicide Hotline Designation Act (S. 2661)

- Signed into law on October 17, 2020
 - Designates 988 as the dialing code for the Lifeline
 - Increased Lifeline federal appropriation
 - Clears a path for states to deploy a local telecommunications fee to fund 988 (similar to how 911 is funded).



- Implementation on or before **July 16, 2022**

9-8-8 and Arizona Crisis Lines



988 Planning Grant

- \$135K to be awarded 2/1/21 for 988 implementation planning.
- Funds will be used to establish a stakeholder coalition to discuss and consider consolidation of current in-state crisis call center services into a singular statewide network inclusive of 988, leveraging existing RBHA crisis call lines and the NSPL into a single statewide provider.
- Other considerations:
 - AHCCCS maintains ACC-RBHA choice of contracted providers and will not mandate that ACC-RBHAs award an existing NSPL registered entity; however, NSPL certification and accreditation required before CCE implementation.
 - AHCCCS to maintain operational performance standards and oversight of Arizona's crisis continuum.

Next Steps / Anticipated Timeline

- AHCCCS is working to identify a consultant to lead program implementation (March 2021).
- Stakeholder workgroups (April - August 2021)
- Draft 9-8-8 integration / implementation plan (August 2021)
- Final 9-8-8 implementation plan (December 2021)
- 988 Go-Live (July 2022)

Resources / Contact

- AHCCCS Crisis Services Website:
azahcccs.gov/BehavioralHealth/crisis.html
- AHCCCS Crisis Services FAQs:
azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Downloads/ACC/View_Crisis_System_FAQs.pdf
- **Contact: Alexandra Herrera - Crisis Administrator / Project Manager**
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