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For more information GOOGLE: *988 Nationwide Prevention Lifeline SAMHSA*

## Planning For 988

March 29, 2022 | Monica E. Oss



Widespread concerns about suicide led to the passage of the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act in 2020, which will make “988” the nationwide suicide prevention hotline to support suicide and mental health crises (see [Bill To Make 988 The Nationwide Suicide Prevention Hotline Heads To The President’s Desk](#)). On July 16, 2022, the 988 number will take effect, and be linked to the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline telephone number of 1-800-283-TALK (8255) (see [National ‘988’ Lifeline For Mental Health Crisis Goes Live In July 2022](#)). The number is owned by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will be funded through two, five-year SAMHSA grants totaling \$48 million, managed by Vibrant Emotional Health (see [Vibrant and 988](#)). The federal “988” Lifeline is built on a network of over 180 local accredited crisis calls centers across the country that will provide 24/7 telephone and web-based chat services, as well as limited SMS support for callers.

Eventually, the 988 number will be managed and funded at the state level. SAMHSA announced last December the availability for more funds to help states build their “988” capacity (see [Federal Government Announces Cooperative Agreements for States and Territories to Build Local 988 Capacity Grant Funding](#)). While federally funds are appropriated for planning and infrastructure, each state must establish a sustainable funding model for their own system—and states are using those funds to contract with a variety of vendors to support the 988 system.