

Fund \$549.6M for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for FY27

Facts



The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides **free, confidential, around-the-clock, and life-saving support** for people across the country experiencing a suicide, mental health, or substance use crisis.



Since its launch in 2022, the 988 Lifeline has routed more than **26.2 million calls, chats, and texts**.



With over **200 crisis call centers nationwide**, 988 offers immediate counseling and local behavioral health referrals.



Studies show most callers to 988 are more likely to **feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed**, and more hopeful after speaking to a 988 Lifeline crisis counselor. According to a recent study, **98% of Lifeline callers said the call helped them**, and 88% said it helped stop them from killing themselves.¹

Robust congressional funding is necessary to ensure the 988 Lifeline has the resources to effectively serve anyone contacting 988, connecting them to free and confidential crisis support.

Without Increased Investment, 988 Cannot Meet Rising Demand

988 is saving lives, but demand is growing faster than resources. Without sustained federal investment, people in crisis will wait longer, more calls and texts will go unanswered, and fewer individuals will receive the follow-up care that prevents relapse, ER visits, and unnecessary law enforcement involvement.

Specifically, additional funding would:

- **Support network administration and infrastructure**, fund local, national subnetwork and backup capacity, strengthen follow-up services, improve services to at-risk populations, and support the 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office
- Support the **development of a robust crisis care response system** across the country that links people contacting 988 to community-based providers who offer a range of crisis care services, including mobile crisis teams and stabilization centers
- Expand **public awareness and understanding of 988** through enhanced communications and strategic partnerships.

¹ Gould, M.S., Munfakh, J.L., Kleinman, M., Lake, A.M., Flores, S., & Kohn, R. (2025). National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Evaluation of crisis call outcomes for suicidal callers. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. Retrieved from: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40405822/>

