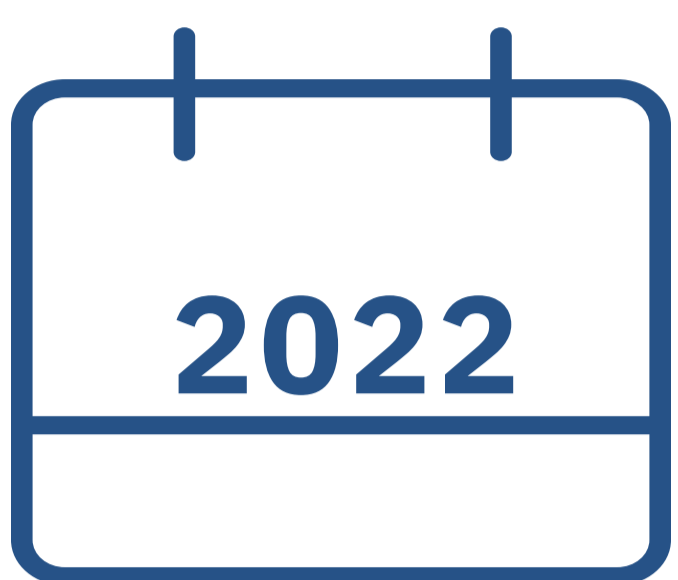


# LEARN ABOUT THE UPCOMING 988 MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY HOTLINE



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved the designation of a new, 3-digit national number (988) for mental health emergencies.



## Timeline

Communications providers will be required to implement the number by **July 16 2022**.



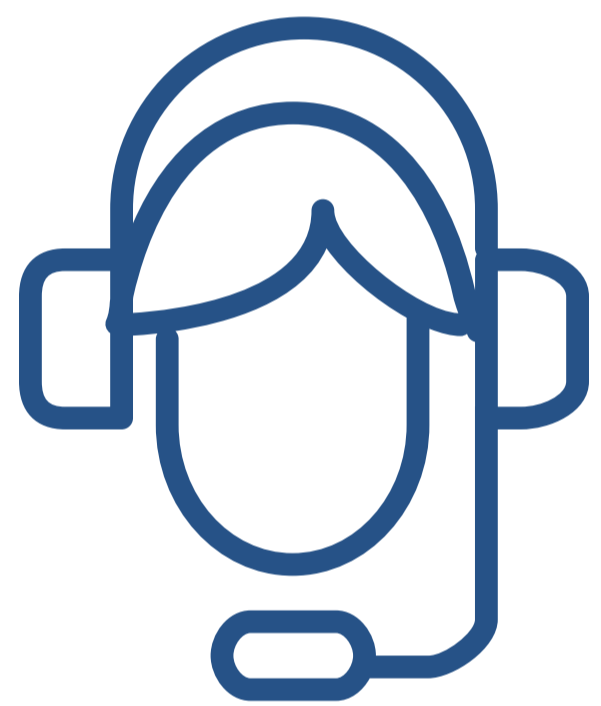
## Need

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US. Some groups are especially vulnerable, including veterans, people in rural areas, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and the LGBTQ+ population.



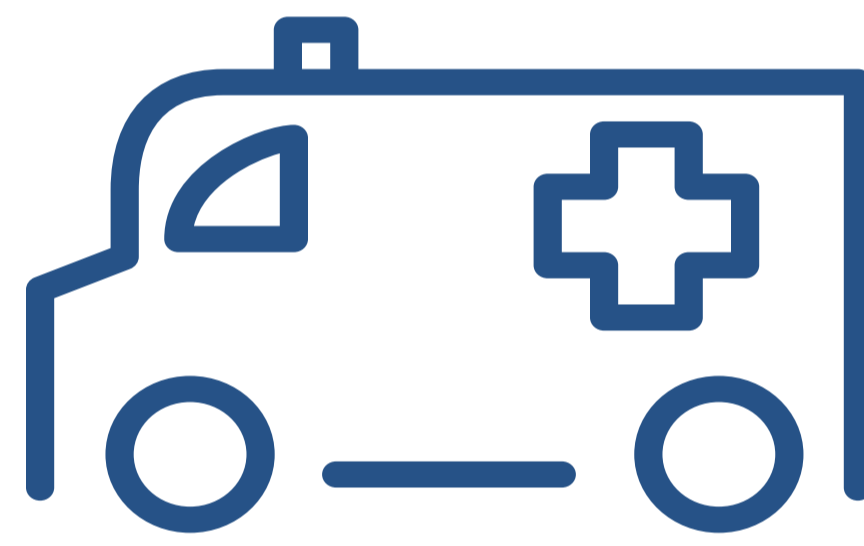
## Impact

The current hotline number is hard to remember (**1-800-273-8255**). The new number makes it easier to get help during stressful times, as well as reduce avoidable interactions with law enforcement.



## The Hotline

The current crisis line offers immediate assistance to anyone in mental health crisis by connecting them to a trained counselor. It is operated 24/7, and can be used for free.



## Improving the Crisis System

988 can change the culture of mental health emergency response using crisis care from mental health professionals rather than policing from law enforcement. 988 and its local call centers will make the current crisis system more comprehensive.



## Cost Benefit

One-time implementation costs to telecom service providers are expected for equipment upgrades, which may be passed on to customers. However, the life-savings benefit of 988 as well as the savings to public safety and medical care sectors are expected to far outweigh the costs.

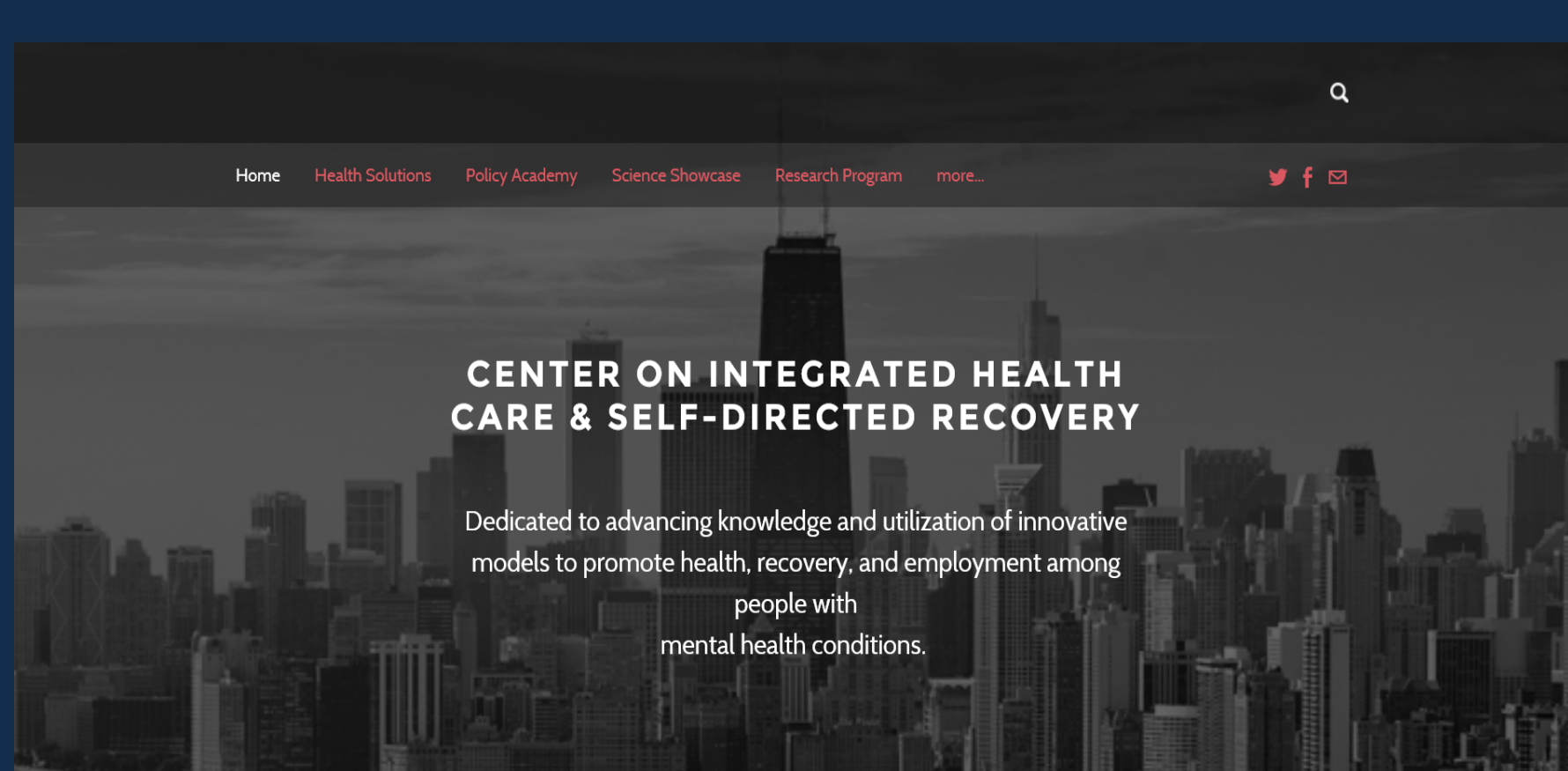
**988 will be implemented in July 2022. Until then, those in need may call the current national suicide prevention hotline:**

**1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**

## Sources:

- **CDC Suicide Prevention Factsheet:** [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/Suicide-factsheet\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/Suicide-factsheet_508.pdf)
- **FCC Report on Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018:** <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-100A1.pdf>
- **The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

## Brought To You By:



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