

CSR-TTAC Connections Newsletter



CRISIS SYSTEMS RESPONSE

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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COMMUNITY CORNER



As 988 continues to be a greater part of communities around the country, it is important for jurisdictions to understand the actions States are taking to further embed 988 and strengthen their crisis care systems. In this section, find information and updates from various States detailing their plans and progress towards advancing 988 and improving crisis care within their borders.

New Jersey

The Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care [Center for Integrated Care](#) has received nearly \$2.6 million in federal grants and funding to work with its partners throughout the state to train behavioral health clinicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in integrated care and integrated substance use disorder treatment.

Read [Rutgers Health Receives Nearly \\$2.6 Million to Provide Training for Integrated Care and Substance Use Disorder Treatment](#)

Utah

The Utah Hospital Association and the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, together with the Utah Behavioral Health Coalition have developed a comprehensive and coordinated approach to improving people's behavioral health.

Read [Check Your Health—New Utah Behavioral Health Master Plan](#)

Maryland

Maryland has approved a plan to disburse \$111 million to provide a variety of health care services for families and their children as part of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future education reform plan.

Read [State to hand out \\$111M in behavioral health care grants](#)

Kansas

Johnson County accepts \$2.1 million in grants to expand behavioral health services for youth and homeless individuals.

Read [Johnson County accepts \\$2.1 million in grants to expand behavioral health services for youth, homeless](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Embedding Equity in the Crisis Response System Through Community Engagement](#)

**Thursday, May 9
2:00 – 4:00pm ET**

[988 Formative Research: Messaging and Communications about 988 to Trusted Messengers of People Disproportionately Impacted by Suicide](#)

**Monday, May 20
2:00 – 3:00pm ET**

SPECIAL EVENT

988 Communications Framework Learning Collaborative

We are hosting a 4-part, virtual learning collaborative series that aims to help States, Tribal Nations, and Territories identify priority communications needs. The series will highlight best practices, resources, and messages that are impactful in 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline communications.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



We are all working together to embed equity at all levels of crisis response from the Federal and State levels to local communities and organizations. In this section of the newsletter, we will provide information about different actions we can all take to embed equity in crisis systems in big ways and even small—anything and everything we can do to improve crisis care!

According to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana has ranked among the top five states for suicide rate in the nation for the past 40 years. Recent data from the *National Vital Statistics Report* for 2020 unveiled **Montana holds the 3rd highest rate of suicide in the United States**, with 300 suicides reported, translating to a rate of 25.9%.

In response to the elevated numbers of suicide within the state, **Reason to Live Native Suicide Prevention Program** has launched the **Boys with Braids** initiative to help instill pride, resilience, and cultural connection in male youth within the community. The program highlights the importance of cultural connection in an effort to offer a lifeline to Indigenous youth grappling with identity and belonging.

The initiative addresses the historical trauma of haircutting during the “Boarding School Era” and **emphasizes the cultural significance of braids while tackling the root causes of Indigenous youth suicide**. The **Boys with Braids** initiative incorporates and embodies three main values:

- Education
- Inclusivity
- Empowerment

The initiative includes in-person events that are designed to foster a sense of pride and belonging among Indigenous youth. They include information regarding suicide prevention that underscores the integrated approach of the initiative to recognize the importance of mental health support alongside cultural empowerment.

Read [*Strengthening Indigenous Youth: Boys with Braids Initiative Addresses Suicide Crisis*](#)

Have a highlight about your work in crisis care?

Contact us, and we will add your story to an upcoming newsletter!

support@988crisisttac.org

Toll-free: **844-464-8338**

Request specific technical assistance:

support@988crisisttac.org

[Subscribe to the contact list online](#) or with the QR code:



The CSR-TTAC, consisting of three partners: Altarum, W2 Consulting Corporation, and Change Matrix, LLC, is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide training and technical assistance support to States, Territories, Tribal Organizations, and community partners. The CSR-TTAC works in conjunction with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of SAMHSA or the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

