

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.

National

988 celebrates its 2-year anniversary. Since the launch of 988 counselors answered more than 10 million calls, texts, and chats [Now in Its Second Year, 988 Lifeline Continues to Help Millions of People](#) (*HHS.gov*)

Kids Online Health and Safety Task Force, co-led by SAMHSA and the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), released a new report with recommendations and best practices for safer social media and online platform use for youth. [Kids Online Health and Safety Task Force Announces Recommendations and Best Practices for Safe Internet Use](#) (*EIN Presswire*)

The Biden-Harris Administration is granting **\$27.5 million in funding** to help community-based organizations better support the mental health of women and to reverse the overdose incline that has continued to rise over the past several years. [Millions in Funding Available to Address Women's Mental Health Concerns](#) (*The Well News*)

Nebraska

A new Nebraska law will now offer a direct interface between mental health and other emergency providers. [New Nebraska Law Connects 911 Operators with 988 Suicide Prevention Line](#) (*Nebraska Examiner*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Monthly "3C" Session](#)

Third Tuesdays

2:00 – 3:00pm ET

Next: **August 20**

[Assessing Equity in Crisis Response Organizations and Systems: Tools, Challenges, and Strategies](#)

1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

August 27

[Understanding Children, Youth & Family Services Across the Crisis Continuum](#)

[Series; Session 1: The Foundation](#)

12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

September 5

Past events are archived at [SAMHSA CSR TTAC](#)





July marked [Disability Pride Month](#). On July 26, 1990, the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#) was signed into law as the most impactful federal measure to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities. In September 2023, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline expanded their services to include an option for those who use American Sign Language (ASL) to receive mental health crisis care. Now, callers to 988 who identify as Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing, or Late-Deafened can access a videocall through the “[ASL Now](#)” button on [988lifeline.org](#) ([Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Hearing Loss](#)), or dialing 988 directly from their videophone. Since the start of these services, 988 call centers and counselors have answered about 20,000 videophone calls in ASL ([Now in Its Second Year, 988 Lifeline Continues to Help Millions of People](#)).

Many states have rolled out unique services to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community’s access to mental health resources. One such state is New Hampshire. [Greater Nashua Mental Health \(GNMH\)](#) offers statewide mental health services to

Deaf children and adults with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Their Deaf Services Team is fluent in ASL and travels throughout the state, including to homes, to deliver mental health services ranging from one-on-one counseling to group therapy to medication management with a staff psychiatrist. Additionally, for non-English speakers, GNMH offers interpreters to overcome language barriers between an individual and the mental health care they need. To access GNMH’s services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, call 603-889-6147.

To learn more about providing mental health services for the Deaf community, check out these resources:

- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
 - » [NASMHPD Recommendations for Effective Communication Planning and Response with Deaf Communities for 988 \(PDF\)](#)
 - » [Trauma in the Deaf Population: Definition, Experience, and Services \(PDF\)](#)
- National Deaf Center: [Leading the Way: Eight Strategies for Deaf Communities to Enact System Change](#)
- DeafYES! Center for Deaf Empowerment and Recovery: [Our Trainings](#)

Have a highlight about your work in crisis care?

We will add your story to an upcoming newsletter!

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