

9-8-8

**MORE THAN A NUMBER
COMING JULY 16TH!**



**9-8-8 will help prevent suicide and the
criminalization of mental illness**

WHAT IS 9-8-8?

9-8-8 which will be going live on July 16th, 2022, is a service for anyone who is suicidal, experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis, or in any other kind of emotional distress. It is the new FCC-designated three-digit number that will connect people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. When you call, text, or chat 988 you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. **If you or a loved-one is experiencing a crisis before July 16th CALL 800-273-8255**

9-8-8 WILL NOT REPLACE 9-1-1, 9-8-8 WILL IMPROVE ON 9-1-1 FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

9-8-8 will provide a mental health response to a mental health crisis. When someone calls 9-1-1 they are connected to a dispatcher whose job is to send a first-responder (usually police) to handle the crisis. When someone calls 9-8-8 they will be connected to a mental health professional who is trained to de-escalate the crisis over the phone and if a mobile response is needed all attempts would be made to ensure that a mobile mental health team and not police are utilized.

WHO CAN CONTACT 988?

It's important to understand that 988 connects people to more than just a "suicide" line, it is a service for anyone who is suicidal or experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis, or in any other kind of emotional distress. You can also contact 988 if you are worried about someone in distress. 988 is available to people of all ages, genders, sexes, ethnicities, races, religions, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses. There are also specific lines dedicated to Veterans and Spanish speakers that can be accessed by dialing 988.

If you or a loved-one is experiencing a crisis before July 16th CALL 800-273-8255

#ReimagineCrisis

#Act4MentalHealth

#ZeroSuicide