

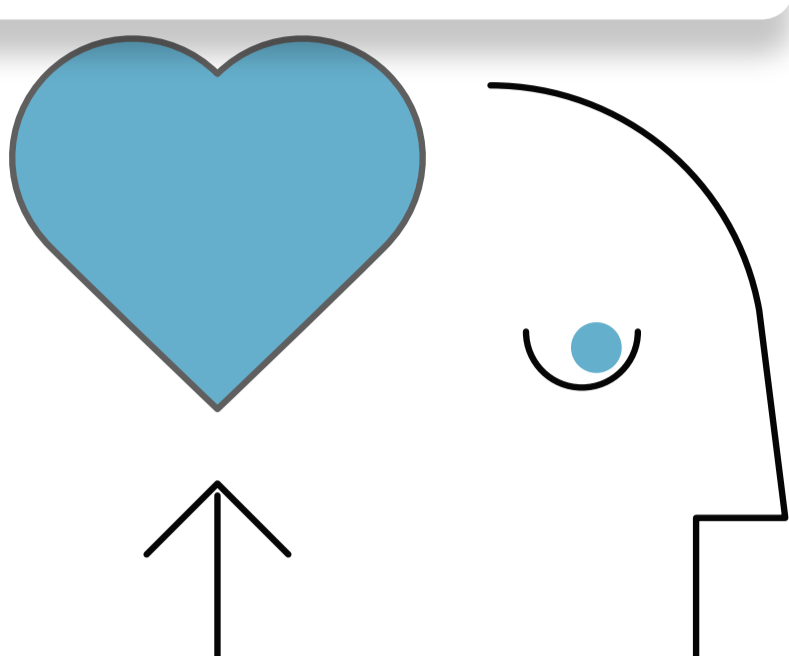
# 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



## The Lifeline's History

2001

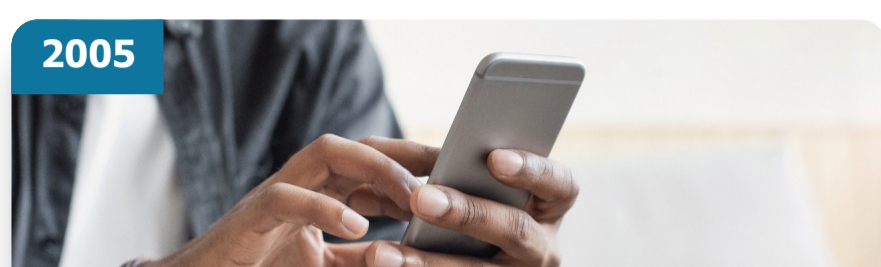
- Congress appropriates funding for suicide prevention hotline.
- SAMHSA awards a competitive grant to a single lead grantee to establish a network of crisis centers that can answer calls from their local communities



2006

- The Lifeline adds a Spanish language subnetwork (now "Press 2") on **1-800-273-8255**

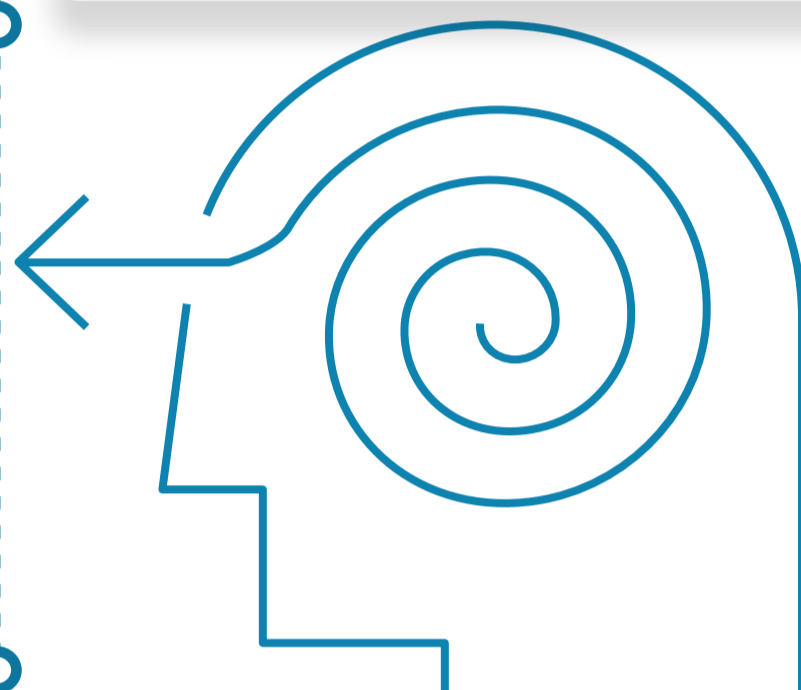
2005



- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline launched with the number **1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**
- **Received 46K calls in the first year**

2007

- SAMHSA and VA partner to establish the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) by "Press 1" on **1-800-273-8255 (TALK)**



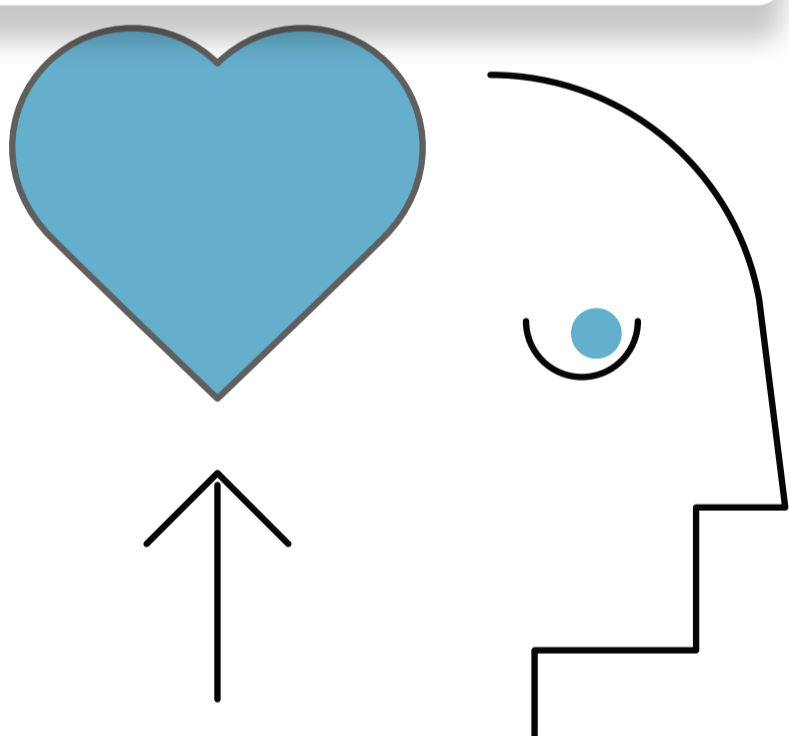
2015

- [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) added into the Lifeline network, with a different phone number and SAMHSA funding stream

2016



- Lifeline chat link added to Google search engine when a person types "suicide" or related terms



2020

- [The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020](#) is signed into law. It requires the FCC to designate 988 as the universal number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline
- Text service added to the Lifeline
- Lifeline volume has grown to 3.3M calls, chats, and texts
- On July 16, 2020, the FCC issues the final order designating 988 as the new Lifeline and Veterans Crisis Line number, requiring all U.S. telecommunication providers to activate 988 for all subscribers by July 16, 2022.

2018



- [The National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act](#) becomes law. It requires a feasibility study into a designating a three-digit dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system

2021

- The FCC added to their order that all U.S. telecommunication providers also activate text to 988 by July 16, 2022.

2022

- The country transitions the Lifeline to 988, an easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code
- Around 200 local, independently owned and operated crisis centers operate in the U.S.



2023

- The 988 Lifeline launches specialized services for LGBTQI+ youth and young adults (press 3 on calls)
- Spanish-language text and chat service added to the 988 Lifeline
- 988 Lifeline answers nearly 5 million contacts in its first year