

Supporting a Strong, 988 Helpline in Maryland



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A 988 TELECOM FEE

- Maryland's 988 helplines face a fiscal cliff when appropriations run out next year. Our state must establish a dedicated revenue source to address this cliff and prevent all future funding cliffs.
- A 988 telecom fee modeled after the 911 telecom fee would ensure the 988 system has the resources needed to provide support to all Marylanders who need it, 24/7 and free of charge.
- The proposed \$0.25/month 988 telecom fee would generate \$15–20 million to hire staff, invest in technology, augment training, and further integrate other crisis services into 988.
- Eight other states have already created a 988 telecom fee, including Virginia and Delaware.

MARYLAND'S 988 HELPLINE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER



Calls to 988 have increased almost 50% since it launched and are expected to continue to increase as more people become familiar with 988. *Source: Maryland 988 data*

Suicide rates are rising. In Maryland, 620 people died by suicide in 2021 while almost 76,000 Maryland young people and 200,000 adults had serious thoughts of suicide. *Source: CDC and SAMHSA*



Texts to 988 increased over 14-fold, but only three of eight Maryland call centers accept texts. *Source: Maryland 988 data*

2X

Young people are struggling. Youth feelings of depression and anxiety doubled during the pandemic.



Maryland has the highest Emergency Department wait times in the country. Strong 988 capacity and other crisis services can help prevent unnecessary trips to the Emergency Department. *Source: CMS*

Nationwide, 42% of high school students **reported persistent feelings of sadness** or hopelessness and 18% made a plan to commit suicide.

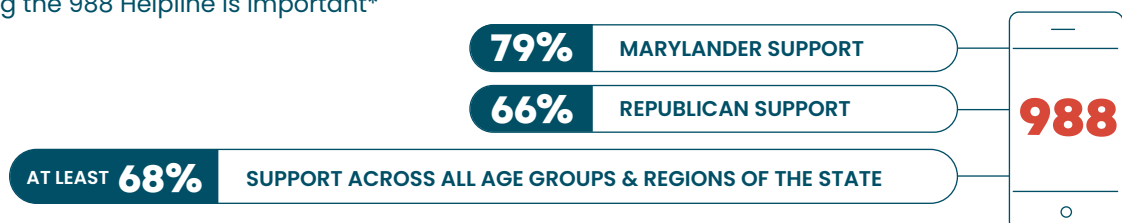
Source: Surgeon General Youth MH Advisory and CDC

MARYLANDERS SUPPORT CREATING A 988 TELECOM FEE



83% of Marylanders agree, and 66% strongly agree, that having the 988 Helpline is important*

Marylanders are willing to pay \$.25 extra per month on their phone bill to fund Maryland's 988 network*





The following organizations form the Fund Maryland 988 Campaign:

211 Maryland
AARP of MD
Access Carroll
Accessible Resources for Independence
Affiliated Sante Group
Alternative Approaches to Mental Health Crisis Center
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (MD Chapter)
Baltimore City 911 Center
Baltimore City Council President
Baltimore City Fire Department
Baltimore City Substance Abuse Directorate
Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc
Baltimore Green Workers Justice Cooperative
Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition
Baltimore Mayor's Office
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
Black Mental Health Alliance
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE)
CMD5 Management
Community Crisis Services
Core Service Agency of Harford County
(The) Coordinating Center
Disability Rights Maryland
EveryMind, Inc.
Harford Crisis Response
Health Care for All
Health Care for the Homeless
Horizon Foundation of Howard County
Howard County General Hospital
Howard County State's Attorney's Office
iMind
Independence Now
Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program
Jews United for Justice
Johns Hopkins Health System
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Joltage Innovations
Kaiser Permanente
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland
LifeBridge Health
Loyola University Maryland
Luminus Health
Marian House
Maryland Association of Behavioral Health Authorities
Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Disorders
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Coalition of Families
Maryland Community Health System
Maryland Nonprofits
Maryland Nurses Association
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
Maryland Public Health Association
Maryland Rural Health Association
Maryland School Psychologist Association
MD-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
MedChi
MedStar Health
Mental Health Association of Maryland
Mental Health Association of Frederick County
Money Talks Baltimore
NAMI Howard County
NAMI Maryland
NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore
NAMI Montgomery County
NAMI Prince George's County
NASW-MD
NCADD-Maryland
On Our Own of Carroll County
On Our Own of Maryland
Organization of Hope
People Encouraging People
Primary Care Coalition
Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff
(The) Recovery Center of Maryland
Save a Shore Farmer Campaign
Sheppard Pratt
Silver Spring Justice Coalition
Sustainable Life Solutions
Totally Linking Care Maryland
University of Maryland Medical System
Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Services