



Vibrant Emotional Health Provides the Puerto Rico Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration (PR-MHAASA) with 988 State Planning Grant

Grant Monies Will Be Used to Prepare Puerto Rico for National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 988 Dialing Code, Effective July 2022

Bayamón, PR (January 25, 2021) – The Puerto Rico Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration (PR-MHAASA) is pleased to announce it has received the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 988 State Planning Grant through Vibrant Emotional Health, the nonprofit administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline). Through the grant, the PR-MHAASA will participate in the development of strategic plans for Puerto Rico in preparation for the projected infrastructure needs, volume growth, and access to the Lifeline's new 988 number. Vibrant has awarded grants to 49 states and territories.

In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, replacing the current phone number of 1-800-273-TALK (8255). Americans needing support should continue to call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) until then.

"Access to mental health and crisis support has never been more critical for Americans," said Kimberly Williams, President and CEO of Vibrant Emotional Health. "Vibrant is committed to providing the states and territories with some of the resources they'll need to plan for the implementation of 988 and to support their local crisis centers. By working together, we will increase access to care, reduce the stigma around mental health and, ultimately, save lives."

Alongside the *Integrated Crisis Intervention Program (PAS Hotline)* of the agency, the PR-MHAASA will develop clear roadmaps to address coordination, capacity, funding, and communications surrounding the launch of 988. PR-MHAASA will collaborate with state leadership, suicide prevention experts, people with lived experience, and others to create a 988-implementation plan and support the Lifeline's operational, clinical, and performance standards that allow access to care.

PR-MHAASA's vision acts as the framework of the strategic plan and guides each of the aspects of the agency by describing what is needed to continue guaranteeing services of the highest quality. It promotes "a mentally healthier and more resilient society".

The mission of MHAASA expresses the purpose of the agency and serves as the standard against which actions and decisions are weighted. It promotes "to guarantee the provision of integrated, high-quality, cost-effective, evidence-based mental health services through the development and implementation of innovative strategies offered in an environment of respect and diversity".

Vibrant believes the new 988 number, once implemented, will ensure the Lifeline will continue to be America's mental health safety net by providing emotional support for people in distress, reducing suicides and mental health crises, and providing a pathway to well-being for all.

About PR-MHAASA

PR-MHAASA was created under the Law 67 (August 7, 1993), which deposits in the agency the primary responsibility to establish programs to carry out prevention, care, mitigation and solution for mental health problems and substance addiction or dependence in order to promote and preserve the biopsychosocial health of the people of Puerto Rico. The Government of Puerto Rico, in representation and by delegation of the people, has the responsibility and authority to establish the Public Policy that provides the orientation or guide that governs the organization and operation in the provision of services for Mental Health care. The Quality Office of the MHAASA assess, monitors and certifies that the services offered in public and private agencies and organizations licensed by the agency for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of people with mental health problems, addictive disorders or substance dependence, meet the highest quality standards. The PAS Line (First Psychosocial Help Line), operating since 2001, is part of the Integrated Crisis Intervention Program (ICIP) of the MHAASA, and will be the site of the 9-8-8 implementation. The program provides crisis hotline services, 24/7, for the entire PR geographic area. Services are available in Spanish, English and by sign language. PAS Line provides suicide prevention/crisis intervention training services on an ongoing, formal basis to the community. Outreach services for families/communities after a suicide is also provided. The Program maintains tracing and follow-up until continuity of treatment is achieved.

www.assmca.pr.gov

About the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Funded by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by Vibrant Emotional Health, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a leader in suicide prevention and mental health crisis care. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support and crisis counseling to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 180 local crisis centers, uniting local resources with national best practices. Since its inception in 2005, the Lifeline has engaged in innovative public messaging, development of best practices in mental health, creative partnerships, and more to improve crisis services and advance suicide prevention for all.

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

About Vibrant Emotional Health

Vibrant Emotional Health is a non-profit organization that helps individuals and families achieve emotional wellbeing. For over 50 years, our groundbreaking solutions have delivered high-quality services and support, when, where and how people need it. We offer confidential emotional support through our state-of-the-art contact center and crisis hotline services that use leading edge telephone, text and web-based technologies and include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, NFL Life Line and NYC Well. Through our community wellness programs individuals and families obtain supports and skills they need to thrive. Our advocacy and education initiatives promote mental wellbeing as a social responsibility. Each year we help more than 2.5 million people live healthier and more vibrant lives. We're advancing access, dignity and respect for all and revolutionizing the system for good. Visit vibrant.org. And follow Vibrant on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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