



*There is Hope.*



## What is 988?

The 9-8-8 dialing code will be available for call, text or chat on July 16, 2022.

Callers will be connected to a trained staff member who can help address immediate needs and connect the callers to behavioral healthcare resources - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing behavioral health-related crisis – whether that is thoughts of suicide, behavioral health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.

People can also dial 9-8-8 if they are worried about a loved one who may need behavioral health crisis support.



## 9-8-8 Professionals Provide:

- + Crisis Intervention Services over the phone
- + The ability to dispatch mobile crisis teams where appropriate
- + Assistance to individuals in finding an open crisis or detox bed across Georgia
- + A way to link individuals with behavioral health services



## 9-8-8 vs. 9-1-1

- + 9-8-8 was established to improve access to behavioral health crisis services.
- + 9-8-8 will provide easy access to individuals having a behavioral health crisis, distinct from 9-1-1, which focuses on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire and police as needed.





## What Schools & Universities Can Do to Prepare

- + Begin conversations with staff in your school on the existing referral sources and how you will use 9-8-8 in the future
- + Continue to provide the GCAL number: 1-800-715-4225 to students and others until July 16, 2022. After July 16, 2022, continue to use the GCAL number or 9-8-8.
- + For schools that have an Apex program, they may link the child to treatment through Apex services.
- + Encourage students who could benefit from behavioral health crisis intervention to download the my GCAL app so they can text and chat in times of emotional crisis.

Visit [988ga.org](https://988ga.org) for a full list of FAQs about the 9-8-8 rollout, milestones as well as downloadable logos and one-sheets.

If you have questions about the rollout, please contact [questions@988ga.org](mailto:questions@988ga.org).

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE** | **GA**