

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**

Improving Access to 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Services

TAKE NOTICE that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, 34.5 and 34.6, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) hereby announces the availability of the grant program funds described herein.

Program Name: Improving Access to 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Services

Purpose: A Request for Letters of Interest (RLI) is issued by the Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to the two (2) current 988 Lifeline center agencies that have State contracts expiring as of March 31, 2025¹. The focus of this RLI is to provide funds for increasing capacity of staff and response structure to improve access to 988 services throughout the State of New Jersey with the goal of increasing the in-state response to 988 Lifeline calls, texts and chats. The funding for this RLI is specifically dedicated to maintaining and adding to the number of staff qualified to answer contacts and make follow-up contacts related to suicide prevention and mental health and substance use crisis.

Available Funding Amount: Up to two (2) awards will be available for a combined total ceiling amount of approximately \$4,600,000 based on state and federal appropriations. Funding may also be used to implement additional technology and cyber security measures to fully support 988 infrastructures. Requests for one-time costs to improve an agency's response structure will be considered if they are specific to the provision of 988 services (headsets, monitors, keyboards, etc.).

Requirements to Apply:

To be considered for this opportunity, eligible providers must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a current 988 Lifeline center that is Vibrant-certified;
- The applicant must have a State of New Jersey DMHAS contract that will be expiring as of March 31, 2025²;
- The applicant must be in good standing with the State of New Jersey (if applicant is a contracted agency);
- The applicant must be able to clearly demonstrate the need for the proposed staff and/or technology through call center data from the last 6-12 months;

¹ Date may change to September 30, 2025 subject to SAMHSA approval of another 6-month contract extension

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- For an applicant that has a contract with DMHAS in place when this RLI is issued, that bidder must have all outstanding Plans of Correction (PoC) for deficiencies submitted to DMHAS for approval prior to LOI submission;
- The applicant must be fiscally viable based on an assessment of the bidder's audited financial statements. If a bidder is determined, in DMHAS' sole discretion, to be insolvent or to present insolvency within the twelve (12) months after bid submission, DMHAS will deem the proposal ineligible for contract award;
- The applicant must not appear on the State of [New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report](#)³ or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds;
- Pursuant to DHS Contract Policy and Information Manual Policy Circular 8.05, the bidder shall not have a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include Provider Agency staff members, officers and Governing Board Members. A bidder must have written Conflict of Interest policies and procedures that satisfy the requirements of P8.05, thereby ensuring that paid Board members do not participate in transactions except as expressly provided in the P8.05 circular.

RLI Procedure: Effective March 11, 2025, the RLI is available at www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants. The Letters of Interest must be submitted that comports with the RLI requirements and instructions.

The Letter of Interest should be sent to:

Alicia Meyer
 Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 Department of Human Services
 5 Commerce Way, Suite 100
 PO Box 362
 Trenton, NJ 08625

Submission Deadline: Letters of Interest must be received by 4:00 p.m. EST on April 8, 2025.

Sarah Adelman, Commissioner

Date

³ <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml>