



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

**988 Stakeholder Coalition
Meeting, July 14, 2026**

Agenda

- Introductions (In the chat)
- Montana 988 Update (John Tabb, Project Director)
- Call Center Updates (Jackie Gittins, Voices of Hope, Christina Powell, The Help Center, Kristin Gaines, Aware.)
- Crisis Data Dashboard Intro (Lisa Curry, JGResearch.)
- Dawson County 988 (Taylor Mitchell, Dawson County Public Health.)
- Q&A and wrap-up (In chat during the presentation and verbally at the end.)



Montana Crisis Call Centers

Voices of Hope

Director, Jackie Gittins



988
Local Number
211

Help Center 211

Director, Christina Powell



988
Local Number
211

AWARE

Director, Kristin Gaines

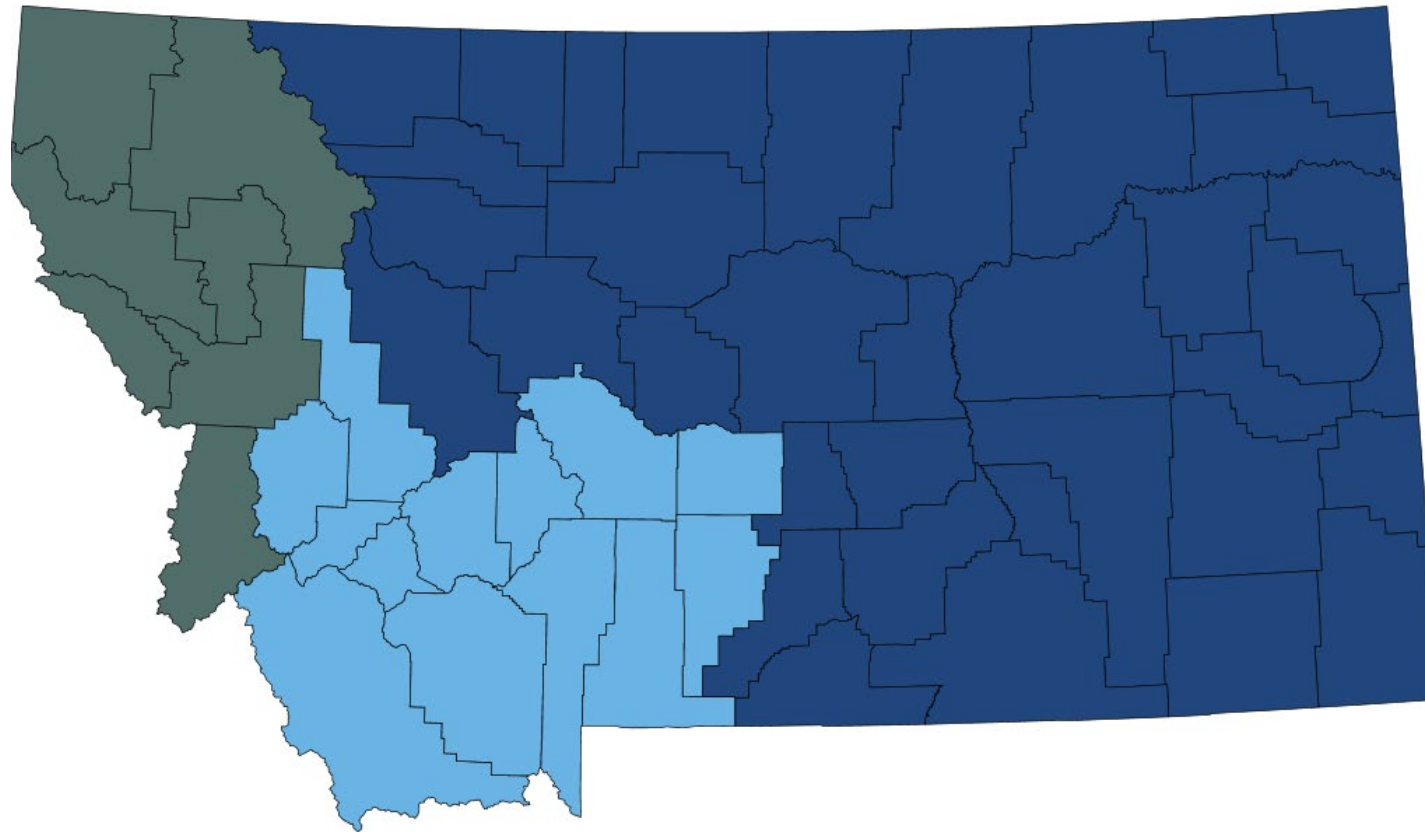


988



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988 Coverage by Call Center



Fort Peck Tribes Crisis Call Center

Director, Stacey Summers

- A local suicide crisis line on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, which operates from Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 7:00 am (23 hours), and on weekends when staff is available.
- The only operational crisis call center on an American Indian Reservation; funded through a SAMHSA 988 Tribal Grant.
- Offers case management services, postvention services and takes referrals from law enforcement, child protection, social services, hospitals, clinics, the Tribal Court and school-based clinics.
- Partnered with Voices of Hope in Great Falls and will be providing them with a Fort Peck resource directory and a training manual on the unique culture and history of the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux tribes.
- Goal is to become a satellite office of Voices of Hope 988.



**FOR HELP,
call the crisis
hotline **988** or
406-653-2000**

When a veteran calls 988

- After dialing 988 the caller receives a prompt directing them to **Dial 1** for the Veterans Crisis Line.
- The VCL is a **national resource**, based in New York. Callers speak to counselors trained in veteran mental health, but they are unfamiliar with local resources.
- Veterans who **prefer a regional counselor** can opt to continue with 988.
- There is **no wrong door**, however. VCL counselors can transfer to regional 988 centers.



**NEW NUMBER,
SAME SUPPORT.**

Dial 988 then Press 1.
Share it with your networks.



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Federal and State 988 Funding

- State General Funds - \$200,000 annually
- Mental Health Block Grant - \$300,000 annually (Through 2027)
- SAMHSA 988 Capacity Improvement Grant (Cohort 2)(09/30/2025 – 09/29/2026) - \$1,125,468
- SAMHSA 988 Capacity Improvement Grant(Cohort 3) (09/30/2026 – 09/29/2029) - \$1,018,223 (Supplement expected to follow.)

Application being submitted this week.



988 Marketing

- Currently materials designed by MT988 are produced and distributed by DPHHS.
- Thanks to the the recent Behavioral Health Services for Future Generations (BHSFG) commission process, \$1 million (for the biennium) has been allocated out the \$300 million provided by HB 872 for 988 marketing.
- The Department has begun its 988 CEP process; expect completion by September.



New Poster Designs



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MSU Powwow 2026



Crow IHS Health Fair and
MT988 Mountain Shadow
Banner Workshop, Lodge
Grass, Crow Reservation

MT 988 BANNER PROJECT - BOOKMARKS



The MT 988 Bookmarks from:

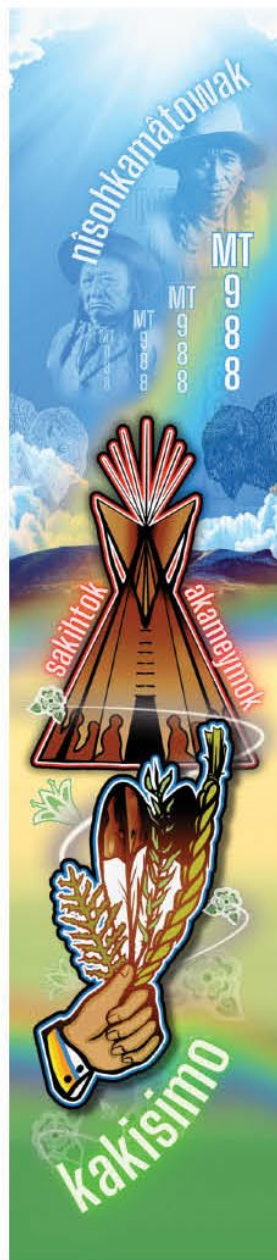
Rocky Boy Health Center
/ Stone Child College, Box
Elder - *Jules Denny.*

Northern Cheyenne / Chief
Dull Knife College, Lame
Dear. - *Minjee Jeon*

Fort Peck Tribal Health / Fort
Peck Community College, Wolf
Point.
- *Chelysa Owens-Cyr*

Butte Native Wellness
Center, Butte. - *Janice Kai*

Blackfeet Glacier Crisis
Coalition / Browning
Community College, Medicine
Spring Library
- *Jade Lowder*



Suicide Prevention

What to Look For

Expressions of thoughts about death, increased substance use, declining personal hygiene, giving away possessions, changes in sleep patterns, isolation or withdrawal, anger, reckless behavior, and persistent depressed mood.

What to Do

Ask directly: "Are you suicidal?" or "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"

Offer Hope

Listen without judgment.
Tell someone—no secrets.
Do not leave them alone.

Get in Touch

The **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** is available for everyone. Through the 988 Lifeline, you can access free, high-quality, one-on-one support. Trained, compassionate, and judgment-free counselors are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Artwork created with the Blackfeet Nation by Jade Lowder.





Bitterroot Valley Veterans Resource Fair

New Veteran Coin Design



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Upcoming State 988 Support Activities

- August 5, 988 First Responder Training, Eureka
- August 13, Lincoln County Sequential Intercept Mapping Meeting, Libby.
- August 29, MT988 Veteran Coin Workshop, 8th Annual Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone, Billings

If you would like DPHHS to help support your community's 988 training and promotion efforts, contact me at: john.tabb@mt.gov



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State Website

MT988 Website

- ▶ Links to national 988 pages.
- ▶ 988 Marketing materials
- ▶ Updated presentations from coalition updates and local presentations.
- ▶ Link to the Crisis Data Dashboard.

[Montana 988 \(mt.gov\)](https://mt.gov)



[ABOUT](#) | [NEWS AND EVENTS](#) | [CONTACT](#)

SEARCH DPHHS

I am looking for

I am a

A-Z Index

[Suicide Prevention](#) / Montana 988



Montana's Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call 988 to be connected to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or 911 if a person is in immediate danger.

Starting on July 16, 2022, the current ten-digit Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK) will change over to 988. Much more

Suicide Prevention

[Additional Information and Resources](#)

[Suicide Prevention Report for Committee](#)

[Suicide Prevention Interactive Toolkit](#)

[Crisis Action School Toolkit on Suicide](#)

[Montana 988](#)

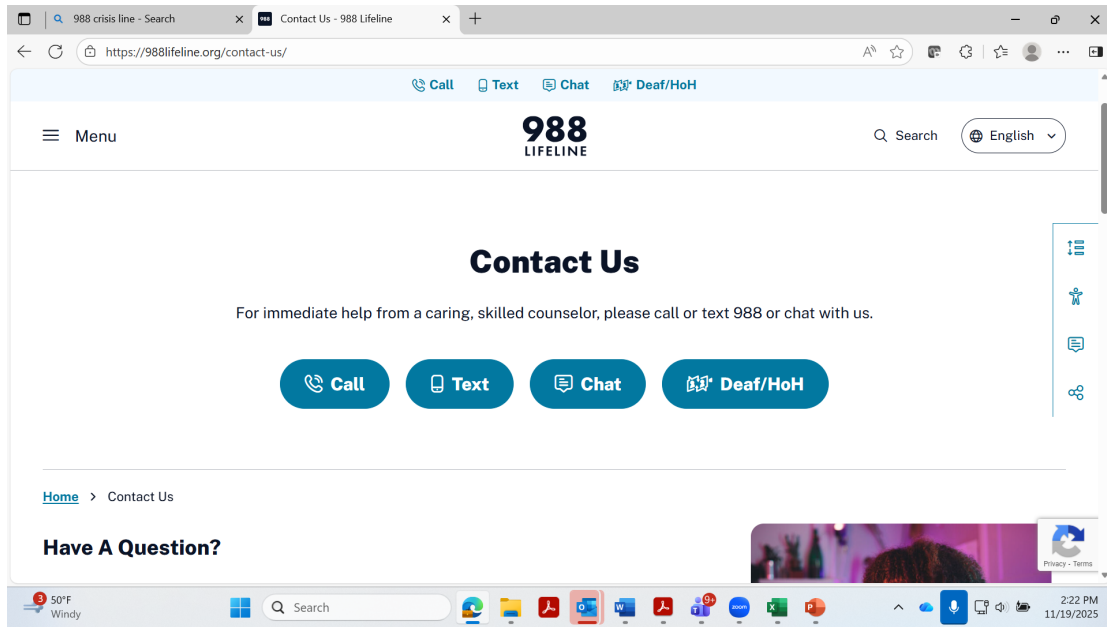
[Crisis Systems Information and Resources](#)

[988 Launch Event, July 12, 2022](#)



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988 Complaints



- Direct community members to make complaints to <https://988lifeline.org/contact-us/>
- If taking a third-party complaint, attempt to gather specific information on date/time of call and location so that it can be directed to the appropriate call center.



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What you can do

- Establish close, working relationships between crisis management agencies and the call center servicing your county, or tribal community.
- Ensure that all crisis resources for your county or tribal community are reviewed and updated in the 211 system, maintained by your call center, or a local United Way that maintains it in your area.
- Push for Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between call centers and community-based crisis services providers: Mobile crisis response teams, crisis stabilization facilities, emergency departments, 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)
- Develop local messaging campaigns using National and State guidance and branding, including school art projects, local social, TV, radio and print media.
- Some other states have pursued legislative solutions for sustainable funding streams. Where appropriate, pursue such initiatives at your communities.



**To request MT988 materials, send
the address where you would like
them sent to john.tabb@mt.gov**



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Questions



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