



## **Request for Quotes**

Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
Branch of Coordinated Care  
988 Implementation Planning Consultant

**Contact: Toni Johnson**  
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**Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

## **Introduction**

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) certifies, provides and/or financially supports a network of services for people with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. It is DMH's goal to improve the lives of Mississippians by supporting a better tomorrow one person at a time.

DMH partners with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Currently, all calls are routed to local centers through a tollfree number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255). DMH has been awarded funding from Vibrant Emotional Health, the non-profit administrator of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the 988 State Planning Grant, to assist in planning for the implementation of a new, national, three-digit number for mental health crisis and suicide response, 988. When implemented, the new 988 number will be a direct three-digit line for a person in crisis to seek the help they need from trained National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors. The new 988 number will ensure mental health crisis and suicide prevention services are more easily accessible to everyone.

## **Project Overview**

In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, to provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. DMH is soliciting quotes from qualified consultants with a past record of performance necessary to develop a clear roadmap for how Mississippi will address key coordination, capacity, funding and communication strategies that will be the foundation to the launching of 988 in our state.

In anticipation of 988 service provision, Mississippi has established a Planning Coalition to include suicide attempt and loss survivors; Lifeline member crisis call centers; DMH key employees; representatives from the state's Community Mental Health Center Mobile Crisis Response Teams, Peer Support Services and Crisis Stabilization Units; the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency; and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The consultant will work with the Planning Coalition to produce the following deliverables and perform the scope of work necessary to develop the implementation plan.

Deliverables:

- Draft implementation plan to include marketing and communications strategies, and timelines, due to grant manager by August 30, 2021
- Final implementation plan due to grant manager by December 31, 2021
- Analysis and report of current system and ideal system, including operational and financial considerations of these systems
- Funding proposal that supports the roll out of 988 in Mississippi that establishes a statewide 988 trust fund for the purposes of creating and maintaining a statewide 988 suicide prevention and mental health crisis system pursuant to the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020.

**Deadlines/Timelines**

Contract RFQ Issue Date	February 24, 2021
Quote Submission Deadline	March 10, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.
Quote Review Date	March 11, 2021
Selection Completed	March 12, 2021

**Quote Submission**

Submit your signed quote on letterhead directly to Toni Johnson at the Department of Mental Health, 239 North Lamar St., Jackson, MS 39201 or via email at [toni.johnson@dmh.ms.gov](mailto:toni.johnson@dmh.ms.gov) by 10:00 A.M. CST on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Quotes received after this date and time will not be considered.

The quote must, at a minimum, contain the following information:

- 1) a statement of price;
- 2) terms of the agreement (i.e. valid dates of the quote);
- 3) a description of the services to be offered by the vendor to the agency; and name, address and telephone number of the offeror;
- 4) the qualifications, including organizational profile, prior work history, relevant work experience, and examples of similar projects;
- 5) a plan giving as many details as is practical explaining how the activities associated with the scope of work will be implemented. This section must include project goals, objectives and associated activities for the campaign.

**Scope of Work**

- Meet and collaborate with Planning Coalition monthly to collect data and establish an understanding of their information and planning needs
- Collaborate with Planning Coalition and other stakeholders to develop communication strategies and implementation plan
- Research and develop funding strategies
- Plan for long-term improvement of in-state answer rates for 988 calls
- Provide consultation and recommendations on project implementation, project performance, and budget planning
- Develop summaries, reports, and recommendations on 988 implementation
- Respond to and conduct ad hoc requests for data analysis and project implementation planning
- Communicate routinely with DMH to report on progress and performance as part of the ongoing evaluation.

The selected consultant should have substantial prior experience in providing similar services to other organizations.

**Pricing**

The agency agrees that total contract compensation will be at a rate of up to \$64,000 for the contract period.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The following evaluation criteria will be utilized (100 point scale):

- The plan for performing the required services: 25 points
- Pricing: 35 points
- A record of past performance of relevant work: 15 points
- Ability to perform the services as reflected by technical training and education, general experience, specific experience in working on similar projects: 25

### **Contract Dates**

The start date for this contract is estimated to be April 1, 2021 with an end date of December 31, 2021.