



## **Request for Qualifications**

Mississippi Department of Mental Health  
988 Implementation Planning Consultant

**Contact: Toni Johnson**  
**MS Department of Mental Health**  
**239 North Lamar St.**  
**Jackson, MS 39201**  
**601-359-1288**

**[toni.johnson@dmh.ms.gov](mailto:toni.johnson@dmh.ms.gov)**

**Date: January 3, 2022**

## **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 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.

## **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 provide consultation and expertise to the agency for the continued development and implementation of coordination, capacity, funding, and communication strategies for the launching of 988 in our state.

The consultant will provide expertise and consultation to the Department of Mental Health, stakeholders, and Planning Coalition regarding best practices for 988 implementation and linkage of 988 and the crisis system.

## **Deadlines/Timelines**

Quote Submission Deadline	January 3, 2022
Quote Review Date	January 19, 2022
Selection Completed	January 31, 2022

## **Quote Submission**

Submit your signed Statement of Qualifications 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 4:00 P.M. CST on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Quotes received after this date and time will not be considered.

The following information must be included in your Statement of Qualifications:

- 1) A description of the services to be offered by the vendor to the agency; and name, address, and telephone number of the offeror.
- 2) The qualifications, including organizational profile, prior work history, relevant work experience, and examples of similar projects.

- 3) 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.
- 4) A breakdown of expenditures of the funds allocated.

### **Scope of Work**

- Facilitation of monthly 988 Planning Coalition and sub-committee meetings
- Make recommendations for technology, infrastructure, and strategies to link 911 and 988
- Participate in meetings and discussions with stakeholders regarding 988 and the crisis system
- Provide consultation to DMH and stakeholders
- Collaborate with Planning Coalition and other stakeholders to develop communication strategies
- 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
- 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 a firm fixed price of \$65,000 for the contract period.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

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

- The plan for performing the required services: 35 points
- Budget for expenditures of funds: 25 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 February 1, 2022, with an end date of January 31, 2023.