



FLORIDA MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY COALITION

Improving the lives of individuals & families living with behavioral health conditions

FLMHAC is a nonprofit, non-partisan statewide advocacy organization representing the voices of peers and families.

Our members include 27 behavioral health organizations around the state, including NAMI and Mental Health America affiliates and Peer Recovery Support groups.

Visit our website at [FLMHAC.org](https://www.flmhac.org) to sign up for legislative updates and action alerts.

Learn more about how we are working to improve the behavioral health system in Florida and how you can help.



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NAMI Florida
National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI Florida partners with FLMHAC to provide advocacy in Florida.

Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition
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FLMHAC's #1 Legislative Priority: 9-8-8

An opportunity to transform the behavioral health crisis response system

What is 9-8-8?

9-8-8 is a new three-digit national number that will link callers to the nation's National Suicide Prevention Hotline, starting on July 16, 2022.

9-8-8 was enacted as a federal law to serve as both a universal telephone number for national suicide prevention AND mental health crisis hotline system.

The Vision for 9-8-8

Behavioral health advocates around the country are working to create a three-tiered crisis response system that can quickly link callers to behavioral health support and resources. This system will include:

1. SOMEONE TO CALL

Well-trained call-takers who can effectively handle mental health, substance use, and suicidal crises for veterans and the general population.

2. SOMEONE TO RESPOND

Mobile Response Teams, staffed by trained professionals and peers, able to respond in person on a 24/7 basis.

3. SOMEWHERE TO GO

Individuals in crisis can receive short-term (23 hour) stabilization services and be assessed at Centralized Receiving Facilities or other crisis stabilization centers.

How Do We Get There?

This new type of behavioral health crisis response system requires dedicated funding for expanding existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline call centers, mobile response teams, and crisis receiving facilities.

Join us in our efforts to support legislation and funding at the federal, state and local levels to make this new 9-8-8 system a reality for Floridians.

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