

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept. 15, 2022**



**Suicide Prevention & Crisis Hotline Volunteers Needed**  
*Increase in New Callers to 988 Means More Volunteer Counselors are Vital*  
*Next Training Session begins Sept. 20. Apply Today.*

**Novato, CA** – Buckelew Programs, the North Bay’s largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive mental health care services, announced it is seeking volunteers to help answer calls to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Buckelew operates one of 13 California call centers in the national 988 network, which launched mid-July. Like other call centers around the country, Buckelew is experiencing an increase in new callers during the roll-out of this new easy-to-remember dialing code. Following the pandemic and social injustice events in our communities, Buckelew anticipates more people will call 988 as they experience delayed trauma responses.

**988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number – it is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health distress.**

988 volunteers receive free and extensive 40-hour training and will gain a wide range of skills to support individuals and families in their greatest moments of need. The next training session **begins Sept. 20** via remote learning. Additional training sessions will be offered monthly, based on interest and enrollment.

Volunteers must be 18 or older and commit to at least one four-hour shift per week for a year. Apply at [bit.ly/988volunteer](https://bit.ly/988volunteer). For more information, email [hotline@buckelew.org](mailto:hotline@buckelew.org) or call (415) 720-1167.

Buckelew’s nationally accredited suicide prevention hotline has operated continuously for over 50 years, previously under a 1-800 number. Over five decades, the 24/7 hotline staff and volunteers provided intervention to more than 300,000 people experiencing a mental health crisis. The free resource is available to anyone experiencing any level of need.

**September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Please help us spread the word.**



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