

Operational Costs for 988*

In the 2021 Omnibus bill (SB 159), the Kansas Legislature included \$3.0 million, all from the State General Fund (SGF), for operational costs associated with the 988 number in FY 2022. These funds were targeted at expanding the ability of call centers to receive calls. KDADS' goal is to reach an 80.0 percent response rate. This funding did include a proviso that federal funds, if available, be utilized. However, I do not believe that the Division of the Budget (DOB) nor the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) have identified federal funds for this purpose.

2021 HB 2281 proposes to set up a funding mechanism for operational costs related to 988, which amounts to a 50-cent fee for each telephone subscriber, to be collected by telephone providers. KDADS supports this bill and would ultimately prefer that the hotline be paid through this means as opposed to the SGF appropriation. The bill is currently assigned to House Appropriations.

My understanding right now, is that the 988 will be primarily funded with public funds, either through the SGF appropriations (should that continue) or a fee on telephone subscribers (should that bill pass).

Additional Expenditures Associated with 988

Outside of operational costs, the Legislature also approved \$5.0 million, all SGF, in KDADS' budget for the new Statewide Mobile Response program. My understanding is that these funds would be used for uninsured individuals who call the hotline and may need services beyond what the hotline can provide. The Statewide Mobile Response program would also receive funding through private insurance and Medicaid when an individual with health coverage through those means utilizes additional services.

** Information provided by Matt Moore, Fiscal Analyst for the Kansas Legislative Research Department, on August 4, 2021.*