



REIMAGINE

Crisis Response

Policy Principles

Reimagine Crisis is an initiative that brings together a diverse group of leading organizations to reimagine our national response to people experiencing a mental health, suicide, or substance use crisis. Together, we call on policymakers at the national, state, and local levels to urgently take bold action to implement policies, funding and programs needed to build a true crisis response system – one that ensures every adult and child in crisis gets the effective care and support they need. It will take all of us to make this vision a reality.

Our organizations join together to call for a crisis system that:

Ensures a mental health or suicidal crisis receives a mental health response.

A reimaged crisis response treats a mental health emergency as a health emergency, providing mental health services as a primary response to any adult or child in a mental health, substance use or suicidal crisis.

Fosters respect and dignity.

A reimaged crisis response treats everyone who experiences an emergency related to mental health, suicide or substance use, humanely with respect and dignity, while also providing the same respect and support to their loved ones.

Recognizes and addresses inequities and disparities.

A reimaged crisis response addresses disparities in care for mental health and substance use disorders by ensuring any person who experiences a crisis has equal access to a culturally competent, easily accessible response, regardless of race, religion, geography, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, disability, or mental health diagnosis - including access to specialized services for disproportionately impacted communities.

Serves anyone, anywhere, anytime.

A reimaged crisis response reliably serves all people in crisis quickly, giving access to mental health care and support for substance use disorders anywhere anytime, through the options of someone to talk to, someone to respond, and somewhere to go.

Addresses local needs.

A reimaged crisis response reflects the unique needs of communities and their population by encouraging innovation and leveraging new and existing resources to provide the core elements of crisis response.

Leverages the value of lived experience.

A reimagined crisis response incorporates the unique and essential role of peers and their families in all aspects of providing crisis services – from creating a crisis system that meets the needs of the local community to including peer support workers as part of the continuum of care.

Nurtures a robust, culturally competent and trauma-informed workforce.

A reimagined crisis system expands the mental health workforce by incorporating a broad range of professionals, including peers and families with lived experience, and ensuring they are trauma-informed, culturally competent and responsive to the needs of marginalized and underserved populations in their community.

Champions long-term wellness.

A reimagined crisis response focuses on intervening as early as possible in a person's crisis and connecting every person in crisis to long-term supports and services that help them get well and stay well.

Endorsing Organizations: American Association of Suicidology; American College of Emergency Physicians; American Counseling Association; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; American Psychiatric Association; Behavioral Health Foundation; Behavioral Health Link; Centerstone; CIT International; Crisis Residential Association; Crisis Text Line; Fountain House; Inseparable; JED Foundation; The Kennedy Forum; Legal Action Center; Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute; The Mental Health Coalition; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association; National Association for Rural Mental Health; National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors; N.A.P.S. National Association of Peer Supporters; National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC); RI International; Steinberg Institute; Treatment Advocacy Center; The Trevor Project



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Learn more and get involved at
ReimagineCrisis.org