



[Clear Pathways](#), an initiative of [Peg's Foundation](#), is designed to sustainably align systems to improve care for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The quarterly *Clear Path* shares our efforts to transform behavioral health crisis response across Ohio and the nation.

Dear Friend,

In the last year, we shared our compelling research on adult mobile crisis service financing. Ten of the 12 programs we surveyed were operating at a loss, and, on average, Medicaid reimbursement covered only 6.2% of their costs. These findings underscore the critical nature of our work: building solutions so these essential services are available when someone most needs them.



In this issue, we're sharing the launch of the Adult Mobile Crisis Alternative Payment Model Demonstration. We have engaged providers across 19 Ohio counties. In partnership with Clear Pathways, they will develop strategies to improve both financial sustainability and service quality. We are moving from generating knowledge in the field to building scalable approaches that strengthen crisis care and can save lives.

Similarly, we are using our lessons learned from the Crisis Response Pilot to inform and improve our 911-988 Interoperability Technical Assistance Project. We are accepting applications from Ohio-based teams for Cohorts 2 through 4 now. If your community is interested in building the infrastructure to facilitate transfers between 911 and 988, apply before the priority deadline of September 21, 2026.

None of our work happens without implementation and funding partners willing to rethink the crisis care continuum. Does that sound like you? If so, [email us today](#).

In partnership,

Alicia D. Smith, Clear Pathways Executive Director

Building a Sustainable Funding Framework for Adult Mobile Crisis Services

19

Ohio Counties
Participating

20%

of the State
Engaged

3

Year
Demonstration

Clear Pathways has launched its Adult Mobile Crisis (AMC) Alternative Payment Model (APM) Demonstration. The Demonstration's launch moves our AMC funding work from research to testing with providers across the state.

Nineteen Ohio counties, representing over 20% of the state, are participating in this three-year effort. They will test whether a value-based payment model tied to program standards can improve both the financial sustainability and the quality of AMC services.

During our research, providers told us that operating mobile crisis services is financially challenging. Ten out of 12 surveyed programs deliver these services at a loss. Medicaid and commercial insurance reimbursements often cover only a fraction of the cost of care, leaving providers reliant on limited local funding to sustain services. The Demonstration aims to test innovative approaches that can create a sustainable funding framework for these critical services.

Participating providers will receive dedicated technical assistance from Clear Pathways, including planning support, ongoing learning resources, peer-to-peer connections, and much more.

[Read the Full Announcement](#)

- Learn more about Ohio's AMC Landscape with our latest [Lunch and Learn](#).
- Have questions about this Demonstration, including how your community can get involved? Email us at MobileCrisis@pegsfoundation.org.

Apply for the 911-988 Interoperability Technical Assistance Project

Apply now for Cohort 2 | Free technical assistance opportunity

Clear Pathways is accepting applications for Cohort 2 of its 911-988 Interoperability Technical Assistance Project. This cohort will advance Clear Pathways' multi-year effort to strengthen behavioral health crisis response systems across the state.

Ohio communities at any stage of readiness are encouraged to apply. Technical assistance is offered at no financial cost to sites.

Applications are submitted by community collaboratives. At a minimum, each collaborative must include the following:

- A Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), which will serve as the lead agency
- The corresponding 988 Crisis Center
- The local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMH) Board

[Apply Now](#)

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about this opportunity](#)
- [Join the September 21 information session](#)

The 911-988 Interoperability TA Project is funded by Peg's Foundation and is a component of the [Behavioral Health Emergency Response Initiative](#), a multi-state effort coordinated by NYU's SCALE + Lab at The Marron Institute of Urban Management and funded by Blue Meridian Partners, with additional support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Clear Pathways Joins National Advisory Group, Advancing National Crisis Care Conversations

Assistant Director of Research and Systems Innovation, [Cal Jenkins, MS](#), has joined the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's [Crisis Care Advisory Group](#). The group, composed of public, private, and nonprofit members, is designed to advance a national approach to a responsive, functional crisis care continuum.

Through this participation, Clear Pathways' on-the-ground experience is being shared with a national audience, scaling our learnings and advancing a framework for full-spectrum crisis care.

Clear Pathways in Motion

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

October 7–8, 2026, Columbus, Ohio

[Robin Lindquist-Grantz, PhD](#), Director, Measurement and Evaluation; Senior Researcher, Mathematica, and [David Frederick, MSAH](#), Assistant Director of Policy and Sustainability, will bring Clear Pathways' findings to the field at the [Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers 2026 Conference](#).

Join them on Thursday, October 8, from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. for the session "Advancing Adult Mobile Crisis in Ohio: From Standards to Measurement to Impact."

In the News

National Report Highlights Clear Pathways' Crisis Response Pilot

[Inform988 Voices from the Field: A Report on 911 and 988 Interoperability](#) |
University of Chicago Health Lab

The University of Chicago Health Lab's report outlines community-advanced strategies to enhance 911-988 interoperability. The report highlights Clear Pathways' Crisis Response Pilot, noting how the pilot facilitated meaningful collaboration across agencies and within the community.

Geauga County Joins Clear Pathways' 911-988 Interoperability Technical Assistance Project

[Geauga Selected for Statewide Crisis Response Initiative](#) | *Geauga County Maple Leaf*

Geauga County shares its involvement in Clear Pathways' 911-988 Interoperability Technical Assistance Project, highlighting how the Project will further the county's goals of safely and efficiently connecting people in crisis with the most appropriate level of care.

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