

# Mental Health

## What's the Problem?

- In 2022, **over 46,000 people** contacted the 988 mental health emergency line in South Carolina
- Of those **127 people a day**, **only 55 received a response** from someone in South Carolina
- Of the **72 people a day** who do not receive an in-state response, **24 are youth and children**
- Suicide is the #2 cause of death for youth & children in our State
- Every day, 2 people in South Carolina die from suicide

## What's the Solution?

- These calls go unanswered because **there is not funding in the State budget for the 988 call center** run by Mental Health America of Greenville County
- To answer all these contacts, our local call center needs **\$3.9 million** in the 2023-24 State budget
- Right now, the State has a **\$3.9 billion surplus**
- Our local senator, Ross Turner, sits on the finance committee and has proposed **\$3.9 million in the Senate's draft budget.**
- However, **the House's proposed budget has no money for the 988 call center in Greenville**, which is currently the only one in the whole state
- Without this funding, **over half of all incoming 988 contacts will receive no in-state response**

## What's our Ask?

- We are asking Bruce Bannister, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and our local representative, to:
  - Support the Senate's proposed appropriation of \$3.9 million in the 2023-24 budget bill when it comes back to the House in May

## What can I do Now?

- Call Chairman Bannister's Office: (803)-734-3144 OR (864)-298-0084 to say:
  - My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am a resident of Greenville County. I'm calling because I was at GOAL's Nehemiah Action on March 28<sup>th</sup> and want to urge Chairman Bannister to support the Senate's proposed allocation of \$3.9 million to the 988 call center run by Mental Health America of Greenville County and ask Chairman Bannister to meet with GOAL to discuss how to make sure that happens.

# Housing

## What's the Problem?

- **30,000 households** in Greenville County are one paycheck away from homelessness because they cannot afford the cost of their home
- There is a shortage of at least **11,000 homes** for families making 30% of the area median income, about **\$27,000 a year**
- Rents in Greenville nearly doubled from 2021-22 and we have the **9<sup>th</sup> highest eviction rate** in the entire country

## What's the Solution?

- We need to build more homes at all income levels, especially for families making **\$27,000 a year where the need is greatest.**
- From our research, we have learned that the national best practice is to fund affordable housing with **dedicated annual revenue streams.**
- Greenville City has laid out plans to invest **\$40 million** into the Greenville Housing Fund over the next five years, and has already invested **\$10.5 million** since 2018, with a goal of producing **10,000 new homes** by 2028
- Greenville County Council gave **\$10 million in ARPA dollars** to the Redevelopment Authority
- From conversations with the Greenville Housing Fund, we've learned that to build 10,000 homes by 2028 will require **at least \$20MM every year**

## What's our Ask?

- We are asking Mayor White & Greenville City Council members to commit to:
  - Creating **new dedicated revenue streams** to accomplish a goal of **\$10 million dollars annually to the Greenville Housing Fund.**
  - Working to ensure that **one third of funding** from the city goes towards **families making 30% of the Area Median Income**
- We are asking Greenville County Council members to commit to:
  - Creating **new dedicated revenue streams** to accomplish a goal of **\$10 million dollars annually to the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority**
  - Working to ensure that **one third of funding** from the county goes towards **families making 30% of the Area Median Income**