

Racial Equity Support Line to Close on June 30, 2025

To our valued community:

At the height of the pandemic, when communities of color across Oregon grappled with deep isolation, discrimination, loss, and mental health challenges, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) asked Lines for Life to help. We stepped in and created the Racial Equity Support Line (RESL).

In November 2024, with the conclusion of OHA's pandemic-era funding, OHA made the decision that **the Racial Equity Support Line will officially close on June 30, 2025.**

OHA made the decision to discontinue funding because the number of people calling the line was too low to sustain funding. But we know that needing support does not always mean people are able to reach out – especially in communities where mental health stigma and systemic barriers still exist.

Beginning immediately, callers to RESL will hear a message notifying them that this service will end on June 30 and to contact 988 for future crisis support. Until then, the line will continue to operate as usual.

Beginning on June 30, 2025, callers to RESL will hear a recorded message directing them to 988.

What This Change Means

Since 2020, the Racial Equity Support Line has offered Oregonians connection, care, and trusted support – particularly to people often left out of traditional systems. The RESL team has provided culturally responsive care, broken down barriers to access, and made people feel heard—many for the first time.

We know how much mental health resources are needed in communities of color, and while this line is ending, we remain committed to providing care that respects and reflects the cultures and experiences of people of color. This closure does not mean the work is done but further emphasizes that we must continue advocating for sustainable and culturally specific resources.

Although RESL is ending, our commitment to ensuring that communities of color have access to the support they need is not. We have compiled a list of culturally specific resources that can still provide mental health support. We know this isn't a perfect

solution, but we are constantly working to ensure that people of color in Oregon have access to the culturally specific mental health care they deserve.

If you or someone you know needs immediate support, dial 988 or view these [culturally specific resources](#).

At Lines for Life, our commitment to communities of color is not about a moment, it's about a movement. The work we do in equity and culturally specific mental health will not stop with RESL. We are dedicated to continuing this work and making sure it is not just reactive but proactive, long-term, and community driven.

We're proud of what these lines represent and are grateful to everyone who has contributed to their success. We know this change is significant. If you have questions or want to connect about what comes next, we're here.

With appreciation,
Martin Lockett
Director of Cultural Engagement
Lines for Life