

# FAQs

## Question: What is the State of Hope?

The State of Hope is an initiative that seeks to activate community nonprofits, including philanthropies, government, businesses and the community members to collaborate closely to build local safety nets that will prevent conditions that contribute to disparities in education, threaten a family's self-sufficiency and/or could lead to child abuse and neglect. Although this is not a foster care initiative, ultimately through State of Hope we desire to activate communities around prevention efforts to keep children from entering the foster care system in the first place. We want to support big ideas in local communities that will do just that.

## Question: What are the focus areas for this opportunity? What types of big ideas are you looking for?

The Division has four Opportunities for Hope for this initiative. These are the priority areas that we believe will have the greatest impact on keeping children safe, strengthening families and empowering communities. We want applications for State of Hope projects that are focused on one or more of these opportunity areas.

- **Education** – improving the educational attainment of vulnerable youth, most importantly the graduation rates of youth in foster care
- **Trauma-Informed** – increasing the awareness of trauma informed practices, the impact of trauma and how to mitigate its impact
- **Quality Caregiving** – improving the quality of caregiving across a continuum including, but not limited to, birth parents, kin caregivers, foster/adoptive parents and the larger caregiver community
- **Economic Self-sufficiency** – strengthening and supporting individuals and families on their path toward independence

## Question: Who can participate and/or apply?

Any community member 13 years of age and older can apply and submit their big idea(s). Organizations (non-profits, business, etc.) are also eligible to apply.

## Question: How can I apply?

Applications should be completed and submitted [here](#). Applications are due by March 29, 2019.

## Question: How will applications be reviewed?

All applications submitted will be first reviewed by teams of community members who will review applications from the geographic areas where they live. Once the community teams review the applications they will send their recommendations to a state level team that will make the final decisions based on those recommendations. Final decisions will be made

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before the end of May 2019.

## **Question: What will happen if I am selected to become a State of Hope site?**

There are several selection categories for the State of Hope. All applicants will be selected for one of three categories:

- Emerging Sites
- State of Hope Sites (without formal funding and technical support)
- State of Hope Supported Sites (provided one-time seed funding and technical support)

All applicants will be notified of decisions made by early May 2019. If you are selected to become a State of Hope supported site, you will receive the following:

- Targeted support
- Trauma training for community members
- One-time funding
- Training on how to use the design thinking process
- Connection to the larger Hope Ecosystem

## **Question: How much money can I apply for?**

We are looking to support a variety of innovative and creative ideas and will provide one-time funding for projects anywhere from \$500 to \$75,000.

## **Question: Can I apply as a team?**

Yes. We encourage teams of community members or partner organizations to apply together. Partnership allows for a greater chance to have more impact in your community.

## **Question: Why would I want to apply to be a part of the State of Hope?**

### **What makes it different?**

The State of Hope is a unique opportunity to make lasting change within your local community in a new way. What separates the State of Hope from other collaborative initiatives is the use of human-centered design thinking and having the voices of youth and communities at the center of the design process. Selected State of Hope sites will be able to take the ideas that have been designed by youth and community members in order to inform the strategies they choose to implement through their projects (the design-within-a-design concept). Human-centered design is a creative approach to problem solving which involves keeping the people you are designing for at the center of the process and tailoring solutions that meet their unique needs. To learn more about design thinking click [here](#).



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If you submit an application and are not selected to receive funding you will still be invited to be a part of our Hope Ecosystem, a network where all selected State of Hope sites will be able to connect and network with fellow sites, receive specialized training, and access additional grant and funding opportunities.

**Question: If I have additional questions that aren't answered here, who should I contact?**

Please email [StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov) if you have additional questions that are not answered here. A member of our team will reach out to answer your question.

**Question: Who might I connect with locally to discuss my big idea?**

The local Family Connection Calloaborative is an established group in every county in Georgia that is focused on child and family well-being. They can provide data, connect you to other potential partners, and share with you the work they are already doing.

[Collaborative Finder](#)

*For additional questions or to be added to the State of Hope email distribution list, please email [StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov).*



# Acknowledgements

HOPE is more than a way of being. It's a way of doing for our community. Thanks for all those who help HOPE thrive by showing up – where people live and work, where they learn and go to have fun. These simple actions you take day after day make our community stronger and more nurturing – where all children grow up safe, where people find jobs they want, where everyone belongs. This is creating a ripple effect for those who need it most – together we are making waves.

Thanks to the State of Hope Core Team who made it possible:

## **Division of Family and Children Services:**

Dahlia Bell-Brown – *Chief Innovation Officer*

LaMarva Ivory – *Project Director*

Ambrea Henderson – *Executive Assistant*

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Denise Wells – *Communications Manager*

Jerrica Williams – *Communications Specialist*

Andrea Tulloch – *Project Manager*

## **Georgia Family Connection Partnership:**

Sherry Witherington – *Director of Community Support*

Rebekah Hudgins – *Research and Evaluation Consultant*

Steve Erikson – *Research and Accountability Team Leader*

Sunny Rogers – *Community Support Specialist*

## **Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies**

### **School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program:**

Sheila Blanton – *Program Director*

Deidre Carmichael – *Deputy Program Director*

Amy Mobley – *Project Manager*

Pat Strawser – *Instructional Designer*

Thanks to the State of Hope Design Team who helped to shape what could be possible.

**Click here for a list of the [design team partner organizations](#).**

Thanks to the State of Hope Advisory Council who provided guidance and feedback every step of the way. **Click here for a list of the [advisory council partner organizations](#).**

Together we can spread HOPE Across Georgia!

