



State of Hope General Talking Points

- ***The State of Hope is a movement throughout Georgia to create communities where children are safe, thriving, and full of hope. Our mission is to cultivate family-centered support systems by connecting, equipping, and nurturing diverse community collaborators.***
- It is an initiative that seeks to activate nonprofits, philanthropies, government, businesses, and other 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 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.
- It is a collaborative approach in which people from all walks of life share a vision of safety and success for every child, family, and individual who lives in their community. It is a place where public and private organizations – nonprofits, philanthropies, government, businesses, and communities – collaborate closely to help achieve that vision. ***As a result, children are safer, families are stronger, and communities are more supportive places for all its members to thrive.***
- ***The State of Hope is an inclusive network that provides welcoming opportunities for youth, families, and supporters to create a better quality of life for Georgians by leveraging the collective wisdom of communities.*** This value proposition, created by the Statewide Design Team, outlines what the State of Hope ultimately aims to accomplish.
- The State of Hope builds off the Communities of Hope concept started by Casey Family Programs and the work of the Northwest Georgia System of Care Advisory Council (SOC) and the Northwest Georgia Region of Hope. ***Georgia is the first state in the country to attempt a State of Hope – identifying and anchoring multiple State of Hope sites across the state.***
- 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. The hope is that applications for potential State of Hope projects 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- Awareness*** - 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
- 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.
 - While the Division does not solely “own” the State of Hope and the transformative work that can only happen within individual communities, we have committed to being the convener of this collective impact approach in partnership with several key stakeholders – Georgia Family Connection Partnership and Georgia State University School of Social Work’s Child Welfare Training Collaborative. In addition, an Advisory Council was assembled in early 2018 to provide guidance and support throughout the implementation of State of Hope. The Council is made up of leaders representing over 40 organizations.
 - Organizations and individuals can apply to have their projects designated as State of Hope sites. A limited number will be selected to receive seed funding and specialized technical assistance; however, most sites will be invited to become part of the Hope Ecosystem - a network where we connect, learn and collaborate to create family-centered support systems.
 - This year funding for Big Ideas will be prioritized to projects that promote one or more of the six Georgia Objectives for Prevention. **Those objectives are to increase economic stability, family resiliency, mental and physical health for families, access to early childhood education, and increasing knowledge of the prevention of child abuse/neglect.**
 - We invite everyone who cares about their community, believes they can make a difference, and wants families and children to thrive to apply to join this movement.
 - For questions or to be added to the State of Hope email distribution list, please email StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov.