

State of Hope

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the State of Hope?

The State of Hope is an initiative that seeks to activate nonprofits, philanthropies, government, businesses and communities 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](#). If you need a hard copy of the application, please [click here for a downloadable PDF version](#). Applications are due by July 20, 2018.

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 before the end of August 2018.

FAQs

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 Fall 2018. 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. We plan to fund at least three to five State of Hope sites in 2018 and hope to open another application cycle in early 2019.

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](#).

FAQs

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 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 Collaborative 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](#)

If you need to mail in your application, please send them to:

Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Office of Innovation
2 Peachtree St., Suite 19-392B
Atlanta, GA 30303

For additional questions or to be added to the State of Hope email distribution list, please email StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov.