



State of Hope General Talking Points

- 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 attribute to disparities in education, threaten a family's self-sufficiency and 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.**
- Our Value Proposition: ***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 Region of Hope sites across the state.***
- 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.

- 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-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
- The plan for 2018 is to identify and anchor at least three to five State of Hope sites across the state (in addition to the already established Northwest Region of Hope). The goal is to eventually have State of Hope sites in each of the 14 regions within Georgia.
- 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 be 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 earlier this year to provide guidance and support throughout the implementation of State of Hope. The Council is made up of leaders representing over 40 organizations.
- The official launch of the application will be at the end of June 2018. Organizations and individuals will be able to apply for their projects to be designated as State of Hope sites. Three to five sites will be chosen to receive seed funding and technical assistance; however, all applicants will be invited to become part of a network for building partnerships, sharing ideas, and accessing resources (known currently as the “Hope Ecosystem”).
- The launch of the application will take place in conjunction with the Destination Hope: Community Conversation events in Region 7 (formerly known as the roadshow) being held at the end of June 2018. The remaining Destination Hope community engagement events will occur the last few months of the calendar year in regions with selected State of Hope sites.
- For questions or to be added to the State of Hope email distribution list, please email StateofHope@dhs.ga.gov.