

GEORGIA



STATE OF

hope

The Hope Toolkit

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# Why Hope?

## WHY HOPE FOR GEORGIA?

*Families deserve to be safe and supported in their local communities, having resources that are designed with their input.*

*Additionally, there are a record number of children in foster care, resources are limited, many individuals and families are in crisis and local communities often have the best answers to address their local needs.*

*The importance of communities being able to support and take care of families cannot be understated. The work of the Division needs to be seen as the last resort for the most urgent cases, not the solution for all issues. To do this, we need the community's help.*

*This is the right work at this right time.*

Connect  
With Us!



**Website**

[dfcs.georgia.gov/state-hope](https://dfcs.georgia.gov/state-hope)



**Apply to be a  
State of Hope site!**

[peprogram.gsu.edu/  
state-of-hope/](https://peprogram.gsu.edu/state-of-hope/)



**Frequently Asked  
Questions**



**Email**

[stateofhope@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:stateofhope@dhs.ga.gov)

## Want to know more?



Download the  
One-Pager in PDF here.



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# Why Hope?

## WHAT IS STATE OF HOPE?



Click the image above to watch the video!

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. 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.

# Why Hope?

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

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 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 at least one or more State of Hope sites in each of the 14 DFCS 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.



# Why Hope?



State of Hope was officially launched in May of 2017 at a special event held in Atlanta. Check out the video from that event [here](#).

Do you care about your community, do you believe that you can make a difference? Do you want to see families thrive and children succeed? Then we invite you to be part of a movement to bring Hope across the state. We hope you will apply and be a hope-giver in your community.

## **WHY APPLY?**

The Division and its core partners want to walk alongside of you as you put your big ideas into action. We will be providing a select number of applicants with technical support and small grants to implement the big idea. All State of Hope sites will be connected to a larger “Hope Ecosystem” to enhance collaboration, learning and access to additional resources (grant opportunities, access to partners, trainings, etc.).



# The Case for Hope

## BUSINESS CASE

*HOPE is more than a way of being. It's a way of doing. HOPE is needed in every community in Georgia because families deserve to be safe and supported in their neighborhoods, having resources that are designed with their input. Creating a State of Hope in Georgia has the opportunity to put the human back into human services and activate the power of the community to do good and take care of its members. It is knitted together by a network of partners working together to create a better quality of life for children and families in Georgia and informed by the collective wisdom of communities.*

*State of Hope (SOH) 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 also 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 of its members to thrive. Making Georgia a place where HOPE lives can make communities stronger and more nurturing but also creates a ripple effect for those who need it the most.*

## Find out the full story!



Download the full Business Case in PDF here.

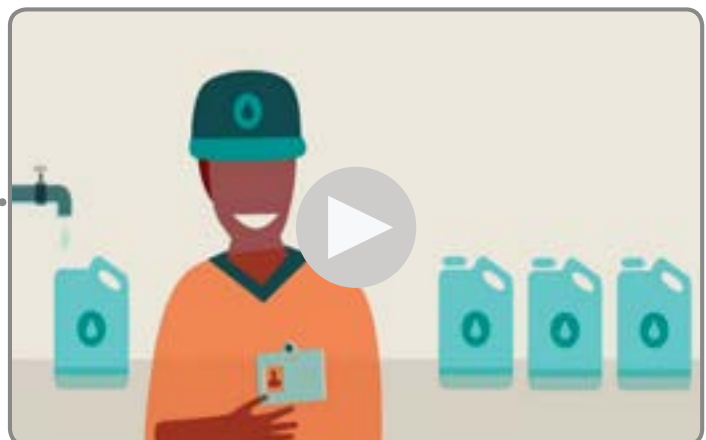


# Designing for Hope

## HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

*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.*

## Check it out!



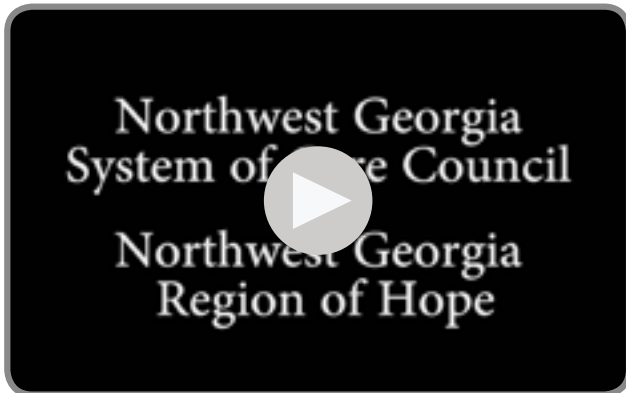
# Shining the Light on Hope

Restoration Rome



Check out  
examples of  
Hope in Action  
across the state!

Northwest Georgia  
Region of Hope



Southwire – 12 for Life



Download  
PDF brochure.



# Hope Connections

Here are some resources you can use –  
whether you apply or not!

## **Conversations of Hope (Civic Dinners)**

Supported by the Division of Family and Children Services' Office of Prevention, these civic dinners are a great way to meet community members and discuss your big idea. You can host a dinner or attend one. These conversations can explore how safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential to the healthy development of all children. You can find more information at [www.cividdinners.com/nurturingcommunities](http://www.cividdinners.com/nurturingcommunities), or here: .....



## **Community Action Agencies**

In Georgia, there are 20 Community Action Agencies that are leading the cause in providing opportunities and empowerment tools to strengthen low income families. Our goal is simple...we will continue to fight poverty and empower Georgians until every low-income family in the state of Georgia is self-sufficient. Learn more here: [www.georgiacaa.org](http://www.georgiacaa.org)

## **Child Welfare Training Collaborative (CWTC)**

The Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies School of Social Work Professional Excellence Program Child Welfare Training Collaborative offers training to community partners (e.g. DFCS, law enforcement, placement providers, early care, education, behavioral health, juvenile courts, pediatric health providers, Court Appointed Special Advocates) and other community and government organizations throughout the state of Georgia. CWTC provides shared training opportunities on issues facing children and families involved in the child welfare system and promotes collaboration among community partners to support better outcomes for Georgia's children. The current training offerings include complex trauma and its impact on brain development and building resilience.

To view the training calendar and additional resources, visit [cwtc.gsu.edu](http://cwtc.gsu.edu).

## **Georgia Family Connection Partnership**

Georgia Family Connection is the only statewide network in the country dedicated to the health and well-being of families and communities. They strive to empower communities in 159 counties to craft local solutions based on local decisions. You can find more information at [gafcp.org/](http://gafcp.org/)



# Hope Connections

## **Prevention and Community Support Section**

[dfcs.georgia.gov/prevention-and-community-support-section](https://dfcs.georgia.gov/prevention-and-community-support-section)

The Prevention and Community Support (PCS) Section works within the Division and in partnership with community-based organizations to reduce child abuse and neglect. Through the use of state and federal funding streams, PCS supports the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices and programs to improve outcomes for children and families. In an effort to assist the Division in providing Georgia with safe children, strengthened families, and stronger communities, PCS-funded services include parent education, linkage to resources, training, high-quality home visitation, assessment and screening, adolescent pregnancy prevention, youth development and professional development for our providers.

The following programs comprise PCS:

- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- Personal Responsibility Education Program
- Title V State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education

*PCS's Funding Opportunities Webpage*

[dfcs.georgia.gov/funding-opportunity](https://dfcs.georgia.gov/funding-opportunity)

*Follow PCS on Social Media*

[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#)

## **Promoting Safe and Stable Families**

[www.pssfnet.com/](https://www.pssfnet.com/)

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program provides federal child welfare funding, training and technical assistance to help build state and community capacity to meet the needs of families at risk of child welfare intervention and families in crisis. Families at greatest risk of entering Georgia's child protection system often have complex and interrelated problems such as poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, substance abuse and teen pregnancy which increase family stressors, impair family functioning and place children in situations where they may be unsafe. Children have the greatest chance for a safe and stable home environment when their parents and caregivers are knowledgeable of and have access to essential supports and services in their own communities. The Georgia Division of Family and Children Services issues an annual funding opportunity for family-serving, non-profit agencies and public entities through its Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program. PSSF provides funding for community-based services to children and families who may be at risk for child abuse and neglect or have had confirmed reports of child abuse and neglect and are involved with the state's child welfare agency.

# Hope Connections

## **Personal Responsibility Education Program**

[gaprep.dhs.ga.gov/Main/Default.aspx](http://gaprep.dhs.ga.gov/Main/Default.aspx)

The State Personal Responsibility Education (PREP) Program purpose is to educate youth through evidence-based programs to reduce teenage pregnancy, STDs including HIV/AIDS, and STI's among high risk youth. PREP targets youth ages 10-19 who are in foster care, live in geographic areas with high teen birth rates, or come from racial or ethnic minority groups. Through a competitive funding solicitation, GA-PREP awards grants to public and private agencies for the purpose of educating youth ages 10-19 and up to 21 if pregnant or parenting. GA-PREP serves the larger goals of GA's DHS by providing high risk youth free access to evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs and supplemental adult preparation subjects.

GA-PREP is also hosts a series of 2-day training designed to help adults become a "Connected Caregiver." These trainings have been designed specifically for foster parents, CCI and CPA caregivers, case managers and supervisors. Through funding from the DHS/DFCS PREP program, these trainings are being offered for FREE to the first 50 registrants. For more information regarding future trainings, please visit GA-PREP's website.

## **Title V State Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant Program**

[dfcs.georgia.gov/abstinence-education-program](http://dfcs.georgia.gov/abstinence-education-program)

Georgia's Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Grant Program awards contracts to public and nonprofit agencies to provide abstinence education within a positive youth development framework. Title V State Abstinence Education Grant Program's goals are reduce adolescent sexual activity, pregnancies, births, repeat births, and sexually transmitted diseases & infections; and increase the use of abstinence education as the best health message for adolescents by initiating after-school, school-based, or community-based positive youth development programs.

## **Georgia Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**

[www.acesconnection.com/g/george-aces-connection](http://www.acesconnection.com/g/george-aces-connection)

ACEs are adverse childhood experiences that harm children's developing brains and lead to changing how they respond to stress and damaging their immune systems so profoundly that the effects show up decades later. ACEs Connection is an action-based social network for individuals, sectors, and communities that are utilizing the ACEs science to implement trauma-informed and resilience-building practices and policies. The Georgia ACEs Connection community is a group of professionals, providers, and concerned citizens sharing relevant information about this critical topic. Developed by the Georgia Essentials for Childhood State Steering Committee, this group hopes to be able to make connections and enhance communication among those with interest in the field.

# Hope Connections

## **Prevent Child Abuse Georgia Resource Map**

[abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/map/](http://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/map/)

This online tool is meant to assist families with questions about parenting, childcare, legal aid referrals, grandparents raising grandchildren, counseling services, and other support in your area.

You can also call the 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline (1-800-244-5373) that will give information you can use wherever you live in Georgia.

## **Treatment Providers**

Download a list of residential treatment providers here:



# Communicating Hope

Here are some materials to help you talk about hope in your community!

DFCS State of Hope May 2017



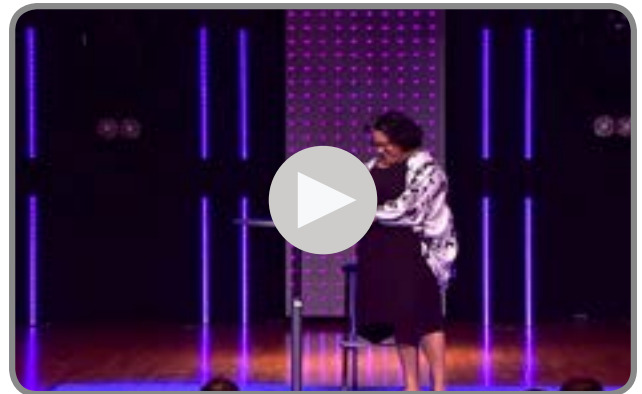
Our Journey Towards the State of Hope



Catoosa County  
Annual Ribbon Luncheon



Fostering Together  
Spring CE 4



State of Hope  
Talking Points



State of Hope  
PowerPoint



# Data

Here are some data resources that may help highlight needs and issues in your community. These are useful whether you apply or not

## KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT is a state and national effort to track the well-being of children. Access this data at [gafcp.org/kids-count](http://gafcp.org/kids-count). See also [52 Indicators of Child Well-Being](#). For more information, contact Rebecca Rice at [rebecca@gafcp.org](mailto:rebecca@gafcp.org).

## Georgia Family Connection Partnership

Search GaFCP's [Collaborative Finder](#) by typing in a first name, last name, county, city, or region, or you can search for your desired county using a map.

## United Way – Child Well-Being Index

[The Child Well-Being Index](#) was developed in partnership with stakeholders who care about the future of our region to measure child well-being across Greater Atlanta. It is offered in partnership with Neighborhood Nexus and Atlanta Regional Commission.

## Additional Data

**The Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP)**  
[oasis.state.ga.us](http://oasis.state.ga.us)

**Get Georgia Reading Campaign**  
[getgeorgiareading.org](http://getgeorgiareading.org)

**Department of Community Affairs**  
[georgia-dca.maps.arcgis.com](http://georgia-dca.maps.arcgis.com)

**Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA)**  
[gosa.georgia.gov](http://gosa.georgia.gov)

**Georgia's Cross Agency Child Data System (CACDS)**  
[gacacds.com](http://gacacds.com)

**Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)**  
[geears.org/research/readiness\\_radar](http://geears.org/research/readiness_radar)

**Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPEE)**  
[www.gpee.org](http://www.gpee.org)

**Project Graduate**  
[An information whitepaper provided by Georgia DFCS](#)



# Roles

*So, what's your role in the State of Hope? You can be a:*

## **Hope Champion**

...spreads the message and activate the community, gets people excited, and shares the digital Hope Kit.

## **Hope Innovator**

...leads the work/project/site.

## **Community Selector/ Lead Reviewer**

...leads the first level review of applications.

## **Community Selector/ Reviewer**

...participates on the first level review team, gives input into the selection of regional sites and projects.

## **Community Collaborator**

....provides support to sites and projects.

## For more details...

.....  
Download the full Roles Information table in PDF here.



# Application Process

## HIGH-LEVEL APPLICATION SELECTION TIMELINE

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>6/25/18</b>           | State of Hope Tool Kit ("Hope Kit") distribution launches the application process            |
| <b>6/25/18 - 7/20/18</b> | Innovators submit their stories (application) via email                                      |
| <b>7/20/18 - 7/31/18</b> | Community Review Teams are assembled & engaged to select and prioritize local ideas/projects |
| <b>AUGUST 2018</b>       | State level team will make final selections  |
| <b>FALL 2018</b>         | Selection announcements and communication to all applicants                                  |
| <b>FALL 2018</b>         | Meet with selected State of Hope sites to move projects forward                              |

## INSTRUCTIONS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR INNOVATORS (APPLICANTS)

Since one of the key tenets of State of Hope is to design something that the community wants (with them, not for them without their input), we are asking applicants – before they submit an application – to attend at least one community gathering to get feedback on their big idea. We will ask them in the application what they learned.

Here are just a few suggested community gathering types where innovators can gather input on their ideas and information on community needs:

- Family Connection Collaborative Meeting
- Civic Dinners
- Church Events
- Sporting Events
- Festivals

#Gotowherethepeopleare



# Application Process

## STATE OF HOPE SITE CATEGORIES



State of Hope supported Site. Formal technical assistance and seed funding provided. Supported with resources in the Hope Ecosystem



State of Hope Site. No formal technical assistance, but supported with resources in the Hope Ecosystem

### EMERGING



Not yet an official State of Hope Site, but an Emerging Site. Supported with resources in the Hope Ecosystem

## THE HOPE ECO-SYSTEM

All State of Hope and emerging sites will be invited to connect to a larger "Hope Ecosystem". This will be a network where sites will be able enhance collaboration, have learning opportunities and access additional resources (grant opportunities, trainings, access to partners, etc.).

## WHAT WILL THE STATE OF HOPE SUPPORTED SITES RECEIVE?

- Trauma training for the community
- Youth engagement using design thinking
- One-time funding – small seeds of HOPE
- Capacity-building around the design thinking process for project implementation
- Additional specialized technical assistance as needed

# Apply in January 2019!



# FAQs

## 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 made

# FAQs

before the end of August 2018.

## **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](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](#)

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](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*  
Mary Beth Lukich – *Deputy Innovation Officer*  
LaMarva Ivory – *Project Director*  
Ambrea Henderson – *Executive Assistant*  
Katrina Mitchell – *Deputy Officer, Strategic Partnerships*  
Natalie Towns – *Director, Prevention and Community Support Section*  
Ellen Geeker – *Communications Manager*  
Walter Jones – *Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications*  
Denise Wells – *Communications Manager*  
Jerrica Williams – *Communications Specialist*  
Duane Tolson – *Business Analyst*  
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 to see lists of our [Design Team Members](#) and our [Advisory Council](#).**

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 partner organizations.

Together we can spread HOPE Across Georgia!

