

HOPE FLORIDA



**WHAT IS
HOPE FLORIDA?**

**WHAT ARE
HOPE NAVIGATORS?**



HOPEFLORIDA

What is Hope Florida?

Hope Florida, an initiative spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis, utilizes Hope Navigators to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency, and hope by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, nonprofits, and government entities to break down traditional community silos, maximizing support and uncovering opportunities.

What are Hope Navigators?

Hope Navigators help individuals identify their unique and immediate barriers to prosperity, develop long-term goals, map out a strategic plan, and work to ensure all sectors of the community have a 'seat at the table' to be a key part of the solution. Additionally, Hope Navigators help identify and organize opportunities for Floridians who wish to help their neighbors by partnering through CarePortal and by connecting community members, including Florida seniors, with volunteer opportunities.

GET HELP 833.GET.HOPE



STEP 1: Call the Hope Line for assistance.



STEP 2: Hope Navigator provides one-on-one support to identify immediate and long-term needs.



STEP 3: Hope Navigator utilizes extensive network of community partners – including state government, nonprofits, faith groups, and the private sector to meet immediate needs.



STEP 4: Hope Navigator inputs any outstanding needs into CarePortal, alerting all participating organizations on the help needed.

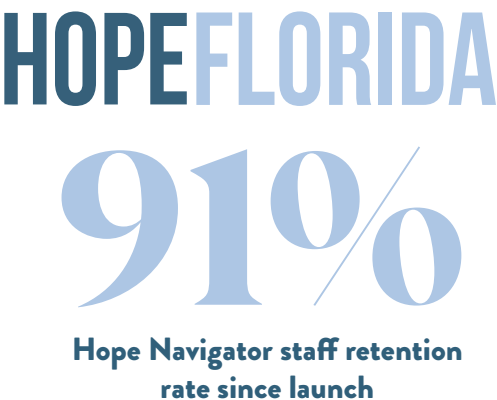


STEP 5: After your immediate needs are met, your Hope Navigator helps you map out and implement a strategic plan to achieve long-term goals of prosperity, economic self-sufficiency, and hope.

From a Hope Navigator

Being a Hope Navigator has allowed me to serve the community and remind them that there are still some warm hearts, ready and willing to help others in their time of need. As a Hope Navigator, I am able to extend support, resources, guidance, and hope to our Florida community. Hope Navigators are the light at the end of the tunnel that everyone hopes to see on the path to self-sufficiency. It has been my honor to serve Florida as a Hope Navigator!

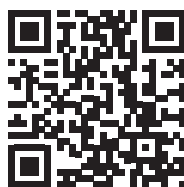
– Natarra, Hope Navigator



GIVE HELP

1

STEP 1: Scan QR code or visit hopeflorida.com and click “Give Help.”



2

STEP 2: Complete sign-up form to give help through Hope Florida.

3

STEP 3: A member of the Hope Florida team will reach out to answer any questions and provide information.

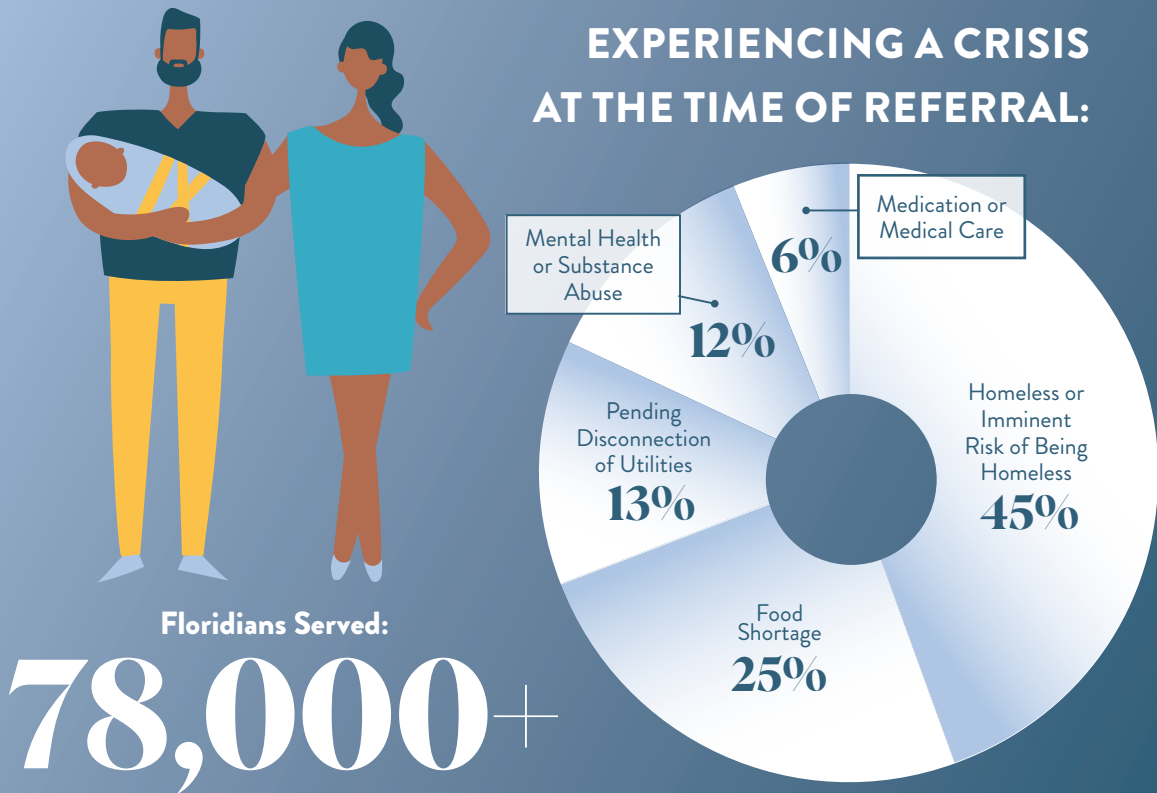
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STEP 4: Receive real-time alerts from Hope Navigators, either directly or through CarePortal, for ways to meet needs in your community.

5

STEP 5: Establish a personal connection with Floridians in need to provide meaningful support.

THE TOP 5 BARRIERS FOR FLORIDIANS EXPERIENCING A CRISIS AT THE TIME OF REFERRAL:



Path to Economic Self-Sufficiency

Hope Florida works with community partners to help Floridians on a path to economic self-sufficiency. One of the main steps in this process is establishing stable employment. When Hope Florida was originally launched, the inaugural group of participants were Floridians enrolled in public assistance benefits.



8,928 + 15,350 = 62%

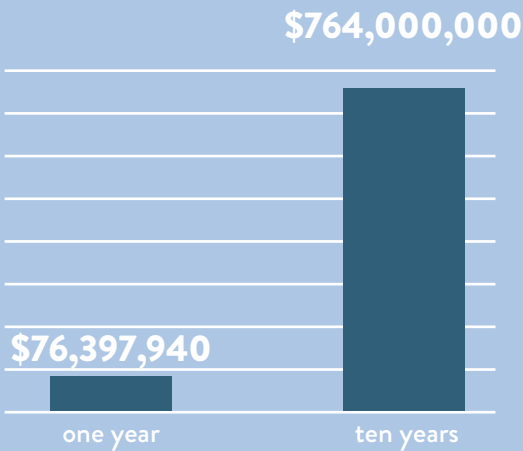
Hope Florida participants have a reduced reliance on public assistance to meet their food or cash needs.

Hope Florida participants are no longer relying on public assistance to meet their food or cash needs.

of Hope Florida participants who were on public benefits have reduced or eliminated their reliance on government assistance of food or cash.

ESTIMATED SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS

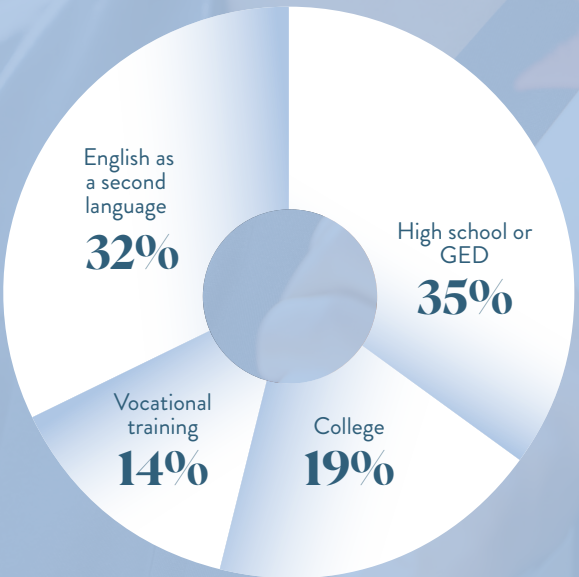
Over a 10-year period, participant reduction of public assistance would save taxpayers over \$700 million.



64%

of participants who identified employment as a barrier were able to find a job.

IDENTIFIED EDUCATION GOALS



By connecting Hope Florida participants with members of the Hope Florida Network, more than

63%

were able to make progress on their educational goals.

Improving Family Well-being

Hope Florida has been instrumental in supporting the state’s child welfare prevention efforts.

Hope Florida works to connect former foster youth and youth aging out of care with critical services that will help individuals as they enter adulthood.

14,000

families referred to Hope Florida from child protection investigations.

\$5.19 million

in state funds saved by referring families involved in child protective investigations to Hope Florida.

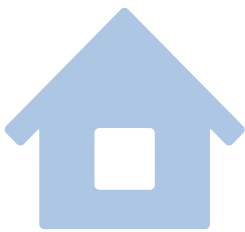
80%

of former foster youth who called the Hope Line received help accessing independent living services.



579 former foster youth received help accessing a college and university tuition waiver.

Hope Florida helps Floridians overcome barriers on their Pathway to Prosperity.



59%

of participants in Hope Florida who identified housing as a barrier found more stable housing.



Of the participants who identified child care as a barrier, more than

62%

were able to find long-term support.



70%

of participants received services to help meet basic needs.



Faith institutions are an integral part of serving families through Hope Florida.

1,308

Hope Florida Faith-Based Partners

CarePortal, a local care sharing network that connects faith institutions to Floridians in need, has served more than 10,600 vulnerable children and generated nearly \$4 million in economic impact across the state, including more than \$1.8 million to help preserve foster and kinship placement.



Krystal

Krystal is a 31-year-old woman with an intellectual disability who is non-verbal. She is currently assigned a pre-enrollment category for iBudget Waiver services with the Agency for Persons Disabilities. Krystal's mother provides continuous care for Krystal. During the Hope Navigation process, the immediate goal identified for Krystal was for her to become more active in the community. Krystal's mother shared that Krystal loves to read books and work on the computer. Krystal also used to volunteer with Meals on Wheels. The Hope Navigator contacted the Palm Harbor Library and arranged to meet with Krystal, her mother, and the library volunteer coordinator. After a great meeting, Krystal is now volunteering at the library and has a plan to become employed with the library within the next six months. She has been smiling from ear to ear, volunteering at the library, doing something she loves to do. Additionally, Krystal was connected with the local bowling alley where there is a league for persons with disabilities called Dunedin Stars.

Franjul Family

Celia Franjul was referred to Hope Florida in October 2022; during her initial assessment, Celia shared with her Hope Navigator that she was looking for assistance with car repairs and transportation to get her children to daycare. After opening up further with her Hope Navigator, Celia also shared that her family was in danger of becoming homeless, as she was unemployed and unable to pay her bills. As the Hope Navigator worked with her to overcome her barriers, Celia received assistance with childcare and utilities; she also received assistance from CareerSource to secure employment. Celia's Hope Navigator worked with her throughout Hurricane Ian and its aftermath, succeeding at securing Celia's family a permanent place to live in Flagler County. During the last follow-up with her Hope Navigator, Celia shared that all barriers were removed, and she was able to graduate from Hope Florida.

All pictures are representative, not actual



All pictures are representative, not actual

Powell Family

In July 2022, Betena Powell was referred to Hope Florida. Betena is a 36-year-old mother of three and had recently been evicted from her home. The Hope Navigator was able to connect her with Operation 180, which provided Betena and her children with a temporary place to live. Betena was able to stay in the temporary shelter for two months, until she found a secure home for her and her children. One of Betena's biggest challenges was finding somewhere for her 14-year-old daughter with autism to be placed after school so that she would be able to work and provide for her children. The Hope Navigator reached out to Spark Pediatric Medical Daycare and Betena's daughter was accepted into the program. To assist with the barrier of employment, Betena was referred to CareerSource and is now working for Advent Health in the medical field.



All pictures are representative, not actual



Johnson Family

In July 2022, Joseph Johnson was connected to a Hope Navigator through Hope Florida. He is married and has three daughters and was receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. He previously worked as a field engineer but was currently unemployed. Joseph indicated that employment was his barrier and that he was interested in assistance with finding a job. Joseph's Hope Navigator worked to connect him to the CareerSource local workforce board covering Citrus, Levy, and Marion counties for assistance with obtaining employment. Joseph maintained regular contact with his Hope Navigator who continued to encourage him through the job search process. In November, Joseph found employment in his field with an annual salary of \$85,000. Due to Joseph's employment, his family is no longer dependent on SNAP benefits.

All pictures are representative, not actual

Jessica's Journey

Referrals to Hope Florida can come from a variety of sources. Sometimes it is a call to the Hope Line, or a referral from a family member, child protective investigator or faith institution. No matter how referrals are made, Floridians are connected to a Hope Navigator who can help start their pathway to prosperity.



HOMELESS

Jessica was residing in hotels along with her 2-year-old son. After exhausting all available funds, she had to leave the hotel and transitioned to living in her car.

REFERRAL TO HOPE FLORIDA MADE

TEMPORARY HOUSING

The Hope Navigator reached out to different shelters. Jessica was accepted into a program for temporary housing with the condition that she obtain employment within 90 days.



EMPLOYMENT

With housing temporarily stabilized, the next focus was employment. Jessica was already working with CareerSource Florida. In addition, her Hope Navigator sent job leads to her, including vacancies within the Department. A few weeks later, she secured employment.



With a new job, Jessica's last barrier was childcare for her son, which was soon resolved due to having stable employment.

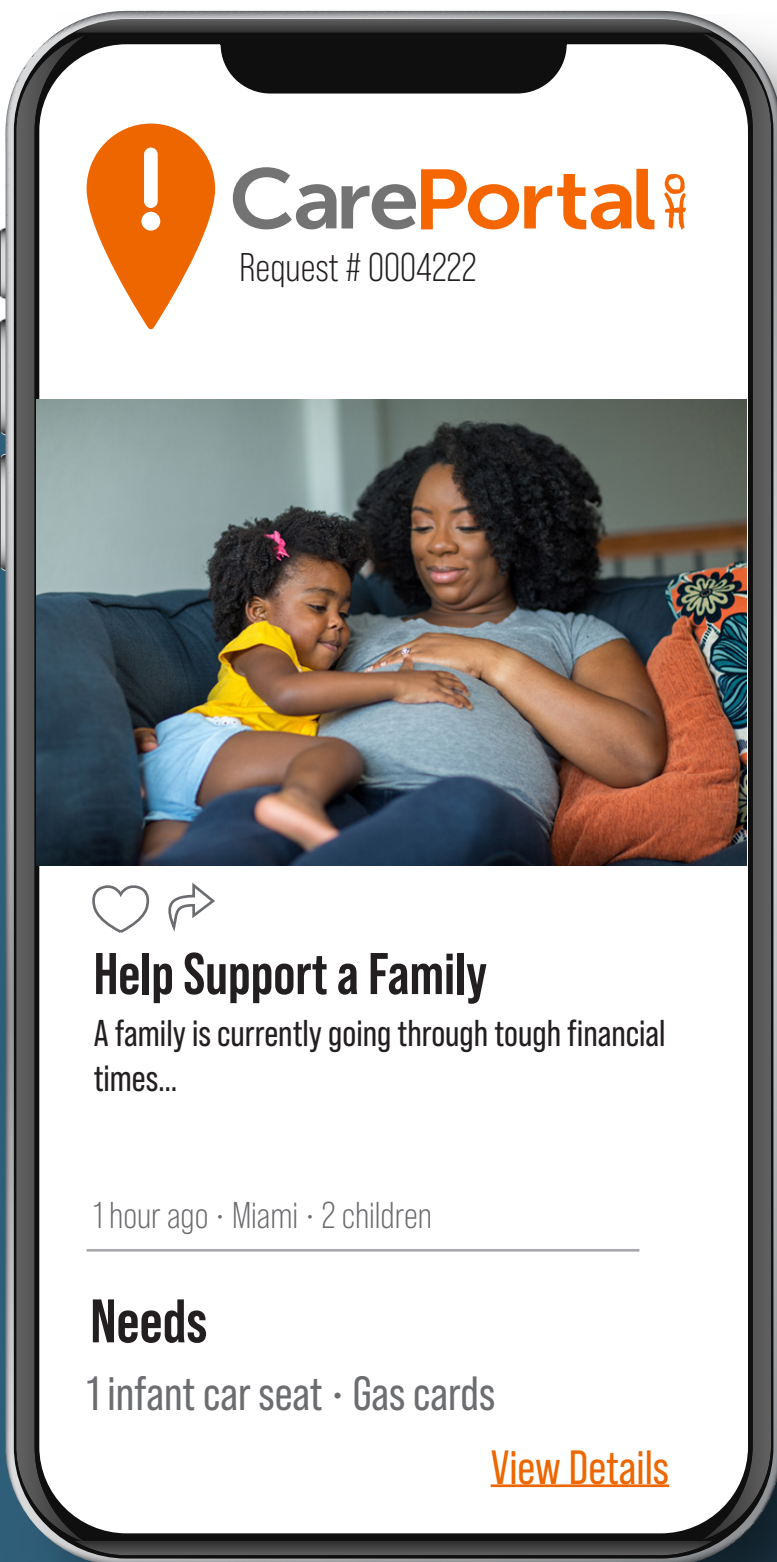
CHILD CARE

PERMANENT HOUSING

Recently, Jessica was able to move into a studio apartment on her own. Even with the many challenges presented, Jessica stayed committed to achieving her goals by successfully graduating from Hope Florida.



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How Does CarePortal Work?

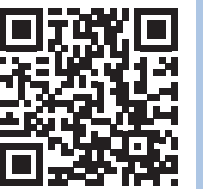
Individuals looking to give help can establish a CarePortal profile online to respond to unmet needs within their community. Through CarePortal, you will receive real-time alerts from Hope Navigators of opportunities to assist Hope Florida recipients with their unique needs, such as delivering a warm meal, a set of bunk beds or even a pack of diapers.

471
CarePortal
Partners

Private Sector Participation *in* **HOPEFLORIDA**



To become a Hope Florida Partner scan here



Provide Employment Opportunities

Sign up through CareerSourceFL

Businesses can provide job opportunities that consider a person's unique needs and skills. Whether it's offering flexible work hours for moms or on-the-job training, employers can support the Hope Florida mission and workforce through tailored opportunities.

Meet Community Needs

Sign up through CarePortal

Businesses can establish a profile online to respond to unmet needs within their community. Through CarePortal, a point of contact at your business will receive real-time alerts to assist Hope Florida recipients with their unique needs such as delivering a meal, bed, diapers, etc.

Support Florida Nonprofits

Donate to the Hope Florida Fund

The Hope Florida Fund harnesses the charity of the private sector to provide financial resources to deserving local nonprofit organizations.

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Fund

First Lady Casey DeSantis launched the Hope Florida Fund to harness the charity of the private sector to provide financial resources to deserving local nonprofit organizations dedicated to meeting the needs of students and families because government is not and should not be the only solution.

The Hope Florida Fund has the ability to locate and support small nonprofits which are mission-driven and invest the majority of their funds to assist those in need. With the support of generous donations, the Hope Florida Fund has been able to award funds to nonprofits that:

Provide resources for foster and adoptive families

Serve children with unique abilities

Promote learning and mentorship opportunities for Florida's youth

Aid struggling single parents and families in crisis

NEW LIFE WAREHOUSE

“What you did for the families we serve was amazing. We are busier than ever, serving most of the shelters and transitional housing clients in our area, as well as all of the surrounding school systems in the Tampa Bay Area. In almost 3 years we have served over 1,000 families. Thanks so much for all you do for Floridians in need.”

-Stephanie Haile

EMERALD COAST EXCEPTIONAL FAMILIES

“Families thrive together when we are connected and we support each other. First Lady Casey DeSantis, what you are doing is acknowledging the special needs community. You’re acknowledging the cards we hold and you are making special needs families feel seen, heard and valued. Everyone deserves to feel that they have support and a sense of community and that is what you’re doing. Thank you for this platform.”

-Angela Nandin

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

“On behalf of our Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter and all of the kids who will receive beds, we want to thank you again for the donation. These are just a few of the smiles we see when we provide kids with beds.”

-Drew and Kathy Miller

NEXTSTEP AT ENDEAVOR ACADEMY

“We were so pleasantly surprised to receive the Hope Florida contribution last July; these extra dollars definitely are making a difference in the lives of our participants.”

-Tammy Dasher



Stories of Hope

FROM OUR FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

NEW LIFE WAREHOUSE

In December we made a whole home delivery to a family of six who lost everything in a house fire. They had just moved into a one bedroom, one bathroom apartment but had no possessions. After our delivery the mother told us, "Hi, we received the Blessing! Thank you! You left this family at a loss for words! And brought me to tears with all the details not even thought of! This organization is truly heaven sent! God Bless you All!"



C.A.L.M. HOUSE

When I first arrived at C.A.L.M., I had been without a car of my own and my license was expired. I didn't have a place of our own for me and my two kids to live together; we had been staying in hotels, and then with a close friend and their family, who helped us move into the "Calm house", as my firstborn calls it. C.A.L.M. provided us with our own room, and several kindhearted volunteers helped with transportation. There were also some very wonderful women that volunteered to watch the kids while we attended C.A.L.M.'s single

mom classes. They helped me build confidence and life skills, such as meal preparation and budgeting. After graduating from C.A.L.M., me and my kids moved into our own apartment! We made it to this point with a generous amount of help and support from this organization and the many caring volunteers that we had the blessing of meeting. This program connected us with the community and helped us build our own "found family" with people that showed us so much love and support.

BIKES 4 CHRIST

Miguel wanted to send his gratitude for the gift of wheels! This bike will help him to improve his attendance this school year. He missed 91 days last school year and was present for only 89 days. He literally was out of school more than he was in school. Having to walk a little over 2 miles to school each morning and then 2 miles home at the end of the day has been challenging for this student. He has not always had proper shoes for such a walk and the weather isn't always the best. He can now ride to school in style like all of the other kids. He was very impressed with the color and quality of the bike. It is the nicest bike he has ever had!

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



SALTY FAMILY SERVICES

After starting a new job and moving into her first apartment, this single mom needed some help with her utilities. Salty Family Services helped her with the bills and matched her with a mentor. During their first meeting the mentor noticed that she had very little furniture. Due to the generosity of our donors and volunteers we were able to get her some living room furniture, a dining table and chairs. When the last hurricane hit our area, the buses stopped traveling to the beachside, so this mom wasn't able to get to work for a few days. Her mentor asked if a bike would be handy for that time and she said, "Absolutely!" Once again, because of the thoughtful donation made by an individual we had a bike to give her. This mom is grateful for all the help she's received, the guidance and prayers surrounding her and the generosity of our church family.

NO LONGER FATHERLESS

It has been one of the most life changing experiences for my boy. We lost his dad in 2014 on Christmas Day. Evan was 7 years old. One of the things that I realized as he was growing up was that I can be the best mom that I can be but I don't really now how to be a dad. So we decided it would be a good idea to get Evan involved in No Longer Fatherless. Evan and his mentor Brett have really bonded over how to build planes, how to fly planes, and Brett has really been pushing Evan to look into things that will interest him that are positive. Having grown up in an adverse environment in my own childhood, I didn't really know what it was like to raise children in a safe way. So it has been awesome to have another adult to reach out to and kind of talk about some of those behaviors. Even though my son has me, he now has a team of positive adults in his life. So I know that no matter what he goes through, he will never have to go through it alone. We would not have that without No Longer Fatherless.



Florida Helps, Then Gets Out of the Way

Hope Florida connects the needy with existing private and nonprofit services to achieve self-sufficiency

As published in the
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
on Aug. 10, 2022



As Florida’s first lady, and a mom with three small children, I’ve poured my heart and soul into finding better ways to help our state’s struggling parents and their children. I also understand government’s role must be limited, accountable and nonexclusive. Instead of creating more bloated bureaucracies, we must unite communities and work together to put parents and their children on a path to prosperity.

To learn how to maximize community collaboration outside government, I traveled our state and held roundtables with our faith-based communities, nonprofits, businesses and state and local government partners. I saw the passion of Floridians spending their time and treasure helping others. But unfortunately, many were working in silos.

To eliminate these silos, I’ve spearheaded “Hope Florida, a Pathway to Prosperity.” This innovative initiative seeks to maximize collaboration among our public and private sectors to help families. We want all hands on deck.

Within Florida’s Department of Children and Families, we’ve turned state employees into “Hope Navigators.” These employees, who once processed government payments within “the system,” now help parents identify barriers to their family’s prosperity, map out individualized plans, and make sure that the best nonprofit and private resources are a key part of the solution.

Additionally, for the first time in Florida, we identified a scalable way to activate the state’s faith and community-based organizations to meet the immediate needs of citizens who might otherwise rely on government. Through our CarePortal technology, Hope Navigators identify the needs of struggling Floridians and enter that information into a computer-based network. This allows nongovernment organizations, especially our communities of faith, to respond quickly.

CarePortal requests are typically entered and fulfilled only once. Why? We’ve found that once local community organizations learn of struggling moms, dads and their children, neighbors won’t let that family go hungry or homeless again.

So far, Hope Florida has improved the lives of nearly 50,000 Floridians. Last year, Nakia F., a single mother of five, was living in her car in Jacksonville. Today, thanks to Hope Florida, Nakia works at a grocery store and has a safe home for her children. Initially, her Hope Navigator addressed Nakia and her children’s immediate crisis—food and short-term shelter. That’s where government often stops.

But then Nakia’s Hope Navigator helped the Jacksonville community wrap its arms around her and her children: Urban Rest Stop, a short-term shelter, helped her find permanent housing in Sulzbacher Village, which is run by the nonprofit Sulzbacher Center; a local business, Total Military Management, provided furniture to make Nakia’s house a home; and a faith-based charity, Daily Manna Serving Center, provided meals for her family. These efforts were all coordinated with her new employer, which offered flexible work hours so Nakia can care for her children.

Since 1964, when President Lyndon Johnson announced his “War on Poverty,” more than \$23 trillion has been spent on federal and state anti-poverty programs, with no meaningful improvement in poverty rates. After decades of failure, it’s time to try a community-based approach, in which government plays a role but is not the only solution.

In Florida, instead of overrelying on government, we’re organizing the generosity and goodness of neighbors to help one another. Our state government extends a helping hand, connects parents and their children with local community resources, and then stays out of the way. Based on our success so far, I’m confident that Hope Florida can be a model for America.

Mrs. DeSantis is First Lady of Florida.



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2023