

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Hope Florida; creating s. 23.40;
3 providing legislative intent; authorizing the
4 Office of Hope Florida; defining the terms "Hope
5 Florida Partner Network," "Hope Navigators,"
6 "Participant," "Care Plan," and "Hope Line;"
7 specifying responsibilities of Hope Navigators;
8 creating the Hope Florida Partner Network;
9 establishing participant eligibility requirements;
10 identifying participating state agencies; requiring
11 designation of a single agency to administer the
12 Hope Line, external website, and case management
13 system; providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Part IV of Chapter 23, Florida Statutes,
18 consisting of 23.41, 23.42, 23.43, and 23.44 Florida
19 Statutes, is created and entitled "Hope Florida."

20
21 Section 2. Section 23.40, Florida Statutes, is created
22 to read:

23 23.40 Hope Florida.-

24
25 Section 3. Section 23.41, Florida Statutes, is created
26 to read:

27 23.41 Intent and purpose.-

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

28 (1) The Legislature creates Hope Florida with the
29 intent to streamline access to support and services to
30 assist Floridians in need in reaching their full potential
31 within their local communities by holistically coordinating
32 care through Hope Navigators.

33 (2) Further, Hope Florida will break down traditional
34 silos and establish a seamless network of supports, managed
35 through a centralized system, and will be comprised of
36 private businesses, nonprofit entities, state agencies, and
37 faith-based organizations to more effectively achieve
38 desired outcomes and sustain long-term results including
39 greater self-sufficiency, community integration, and the
40 reduction of the participant's sole reliance on government
41 programs.

42 (3) Hope Florida is designed to empower and assist
43 Floridians in identifying and achieving immediate,
44 intermediate, and long-term goals and removing barriers to
45 goal achievement through the development and implementation
46 of a Care Plan in partnership with Hope Navigators.

47 Section 4. Section 23.42, Florida Statutes, is created
48 to read:

49 23.42 Office of Hope Florida.-

50 (1) Within the Executive Office of the Governor shall
51 be created an Office of Hope Florida to facilitate
52 alignment and coordination of state agencies participating
53 in Hope Florida. The head of the office is the Director of
54 the Office of Hope Florida. The Director of the Office of

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

55 Hope Florida shall be appointed by and shall serve at the
56 pleasure of the Governor.

57 (2) The duties of the office are to:

58 (a) Establish goals and strategies for Hope Florida.

59 (b) Facilitate coordination and collaboration amongst
60 participating agencies to achieve these goals.

61 (c) Expand the Hope Florida partner network to meet
62 the needs of participating Floridians.

63 Section 5. Section 23.43, Florida Statutes, is created
64 to read:

65 23.43 Definitions.-As used in this section:

66 (1) "Care Plan" means a written tool that contains
67 information provided by the individual to develop and
68 customize tangible action steps and corresponding timelines
69 to achieve immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals and
70 address barriers through direct connection to community
71 resources and opportunities to achieve their goal.

72 (2) "Hope Florida Partner Network" means the
73 designated organizations actively engaged in Hope Florida
74 by providing goods or services that directly support Hope
75 Florida participants' goals and address identified
76 barriers.

77 (3) "Hope Line" means the toll-free number used to
78 serve as a hotline for Hope Florida inquiries and referrals
79 for individuals and families in need of services.

80 (4) "Hope Navigators" means any individuals designated
81 by a Hope Florida participating agency to coordinate care

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

82 and assist participants and families seeking services
83 through Hope Florida.

84 (5) "Participant" means any individual who is
85 voluntarily enrolled in Hope Florida.

86 Section 6. Section 23.44, Florida Statutes, is created
87 to read:

88 23.44 Hope Florida.-

89 (1) Hope Florida utilizes Hope Navigators to assist
90 participants in identifying their personal goals, develop
91 an individualized plan for achieving immediate,
92 intermediate, and long-term goals, identifying and
93 addressing barriers, and actively connecting participants
94 to community resources and opportunities to achieve their
95 goals. Hope Florida utilizes government agencies, non-
96 profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and the
97 private sector to serve families holistically in achieving
98 self-sufficiency, maximizing community integration, and
99 building a prosperous future. Barriers to self-sufficiency
100 may include, but are not limited to, stable employment,
101 increased wages, skills for greater independence, education
102 or training, meeting basic needs, and stable housing.
103 Participants requiring assistance with employment or
104 vocational training shall be referred to CareerSource
105 Florida and the Local Workforce Development Boards or other
106 entities to prepare, train, and place individuals in
107 meaningful employment.

108 (2) Hope Navigators.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

109 (a) Hope Navigators are resources designated by a
110 participating agency that are embedded to serve as a
111 catalyst and single point of contact for participants by
112 utilizing participant information to jointly develop and
113 implement care plans, navigating and actively leveraging
114 community-based supports and opportunities throughout each
115 step to create a sustainable network of supports to achieve
116 participant goals, overcome barriers, and realize their
117 full potential.

118 (b) Care Plans, at a minimum, must be a written plan
119 that includes action steps and corresponding timelines to
120 address immediate, intermediate, and long-term goals and
121 barriers to help participants achieve their greatest
122 potential based on their personal goals. This can include,
123 but is not limited to, goals relating to mentorship and
124 coaching, life skills development, employment, educational
125 obtainment, community engagement, and volunteerism and
126 addressing barriers such as basic needs, transportation,
127 and untreated medical and behavioral health conditions.

128 (3) The Hope Florida Partner Network is comprised of
129 designated state agencies, private-public partnerships,
130 non-profit, private sector, and faith-based organizations
131 actively engaged in Hope Florida by supporting and
132 addressing the goals and barriers of participants. To
133 sustain the effectiveness of Hope Florida and the network,
134 continuous development of both new and existing
135 partnerships is necessary and encouraged.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

136 (4) Participant Eligibility
137 (a) In order to participate in Hope Florida,
138 individuals must be:
139 1. A resident of the State of Florida; and
140 2. A citizen of the United States or a permanent
141 resident alien of the United States, as determined by the
142 United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
143 Services; and
144 3. At least 18 years old; or
145 4. At least 16 years old if emancipated; or
146 5. Under the age of 18 years old and not emancipated
147 with the consent of a parent or guardian.
148 (b) Participation in Hope Florida is voluntary.
149 (c) Individuals may request assistance by calling the
150 Hope Line, requesting assistance through the Hope Florida
151 website, or through proactive outreach by a participating
152 agency, or referrals may be made on behalf of an individual
153 by community organizations to the Hope Line, Hope Florida
154 website, or participating state agency Hope Navigator.
155 (5) Participating agencies.
156 (a) State agencies shall participate in Hope Florida
157 at the direction of the Executive Office of the Governor.
158 At a minimum, the following state agencies must participate
159 in Hope Florida: the Department of Children and Families,
160 the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of
161 Juvenile Justice, Guardian Ad Litem, the Department of
162 Education, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

163 Department of Corrections, the Division of Emergency
164 Management, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the
165 Department of Commerce, and the Department of Elderly
166 Affairs.

167 (b) In order to utilize government resources more
168 effectively and efficiently, participating state agencies
169 must utilize existing resources and personnel, to the
170 extent possible, to operate Hope Florida.

171 (c) Other public-private partners may also participate
172 in Hope Florida, at the direction of the Executive Office
173 of the Governor, including but not limited to: CareerSource
174 Florida and Volunteer Florida.

175 (6) A designated agency shall be determined by the
176 Executive Office of the Governor, at a minimum, to:

177 (a) Operate the Hope Line which will be available, at
178 a minimum, during business hours Monday through Friday.

179 (b) Develop and maintain a website for individuals to
180 connect with Hope Florida or to volunteer their time or
181 donate resources.

182 (c) Develop and maintain a Hope Florida case
183 management system that, at a minimum, conducts intake for
184 Hope Florida inquiries and referrals for individuals and
185 families in need of services. An electronic system shall be
186 developed and maintained by the designated agency for
187 purposes of care planning functionality, closed loop
188 referrals, and tracking at a minimum.

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FY 2025-2026 Conforming Bill
Relating to Hope Florida Program

Bill

2025

189 (d) Work with the Florida Department of Commerce and
190 CareerSource Florida to maintain a portal for designating
191 employers as "Hope Florida Employers." The portal must be
192 integrated with the Florida Department of Commerce's one-
193 stop delivery system to ensure all Floridians served
194 through Hope Florida have access to employment and training
195 services.

196 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming
197 law.