

# FL [DIGITAL SERVICE]

State IT Recognition Awards

Category: Cross-Boundary Collaboration & Partnerships

FL[DS] CoLab

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*INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION*

I am writing to enthusiastically nominate the Florida Digital Service (FL[DS]) CoLab for the prestigious State IT Recognition Awards in the category of Cross-Boundary Collaboration & Partnerships. The FL[DS] CoLab has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to fostering collaboration, professional development, and innovation within the state and local government agencies of Florida.

The FL[DS] CoLab stands as a trailblazer in providing enterprise team members with a comprehensive range of technology training, awareness, and professional development opportunities at no cost. The platform has become an invaluable resource for professionals seeking to enhance their skills and knowledge in mission-critical areas such as leadership, project management, cybersecurity, procurement, policy, compliance, cloud modernization, and more.

Since its inception on April 3, 2022, to date, the FL[DS] CoLab has achieved significant hallmarks that exemplify its impact and success:

1. More than 1,700 individual attendees: The CoLab has attracted an impressive number of professionals, bringing together a diverse range of perspectives and expertise from various agencies.
2. 87 Events: The CoLab has organized and executed an extensive array of events, providing a rich and dynamic platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and idea exchange.
3. 40 Participating Agencies: The CoLab has successfully engaged and involved a wide range of agencies, fostering cross-agency collaboration and the development of standards and communities of practice.
4. 20 PMP Eligible Events Totaling More than 600 Credit Hours Provided: The CoLab has played a pivotal role in enhancing the professional credentials of attendees by offering a substantial number of Project Management Professional (PMP) eligible events, resulting in over 600 credit hours of valuable training.
5. 9 Sold Out Events: The CoLab's events have consistently garnered immense interest and demand, with nine events achieving a sold-out status. This accomplishment highlights the high regard and value placed on the CoLab by participants.
6. 55 Unique Partners: The CoLab has cultivated strong partnerships with 55 unique vendors, fostering collaboration and providing an avenue for these partners to give back to the community while establishing new business relationships.
7. 20+ Local Government Participants: The CoLab has actively engaged local government professionals, extending the benefits of the platform to a broader audience, and facilitating knowledge exchange between state and local agencies.

The numbers speak for themselves. It is evident that the FL[DS] CoLab has made substantial contributions to the professional development landscape within the state and local government sector. Its commitment to providing top tier training opportunities, fostering collaboration, and nurturing communities of practice sets it apart as an exceptional initiative.

The FL[DS] CoLab's impact is not only measured in numbers but also in the tangible outcomes achieved by the professionals who have participated. The knowledge gained, the relationships formed, and the innovative ideas sparked within the CoLab have undoubtedly led to enhanced service delivery, improved technology practices, and increased efficiency within Florida's public sector.

Considering the remarkable achievements, the breadth of participation, and the invaluable contribution to the professional growth of individuals and agencies, I firmly believe that the FL[DS] Collaboration Lab (CoLab) is a deserving candidate for recognition and celebration through the State IT Recognition Awards. The CoLab's commitment to advancing the field of digital service delivery in Florida is commendable and worthy of national recognition.

### **FL[DS] CoLab Initiative - The Vision at A Glance**

Open to all government employees, state, and local.

Offer quality events with zero budget.

No cost to the attendee.

No cost paid for content or facilitation.

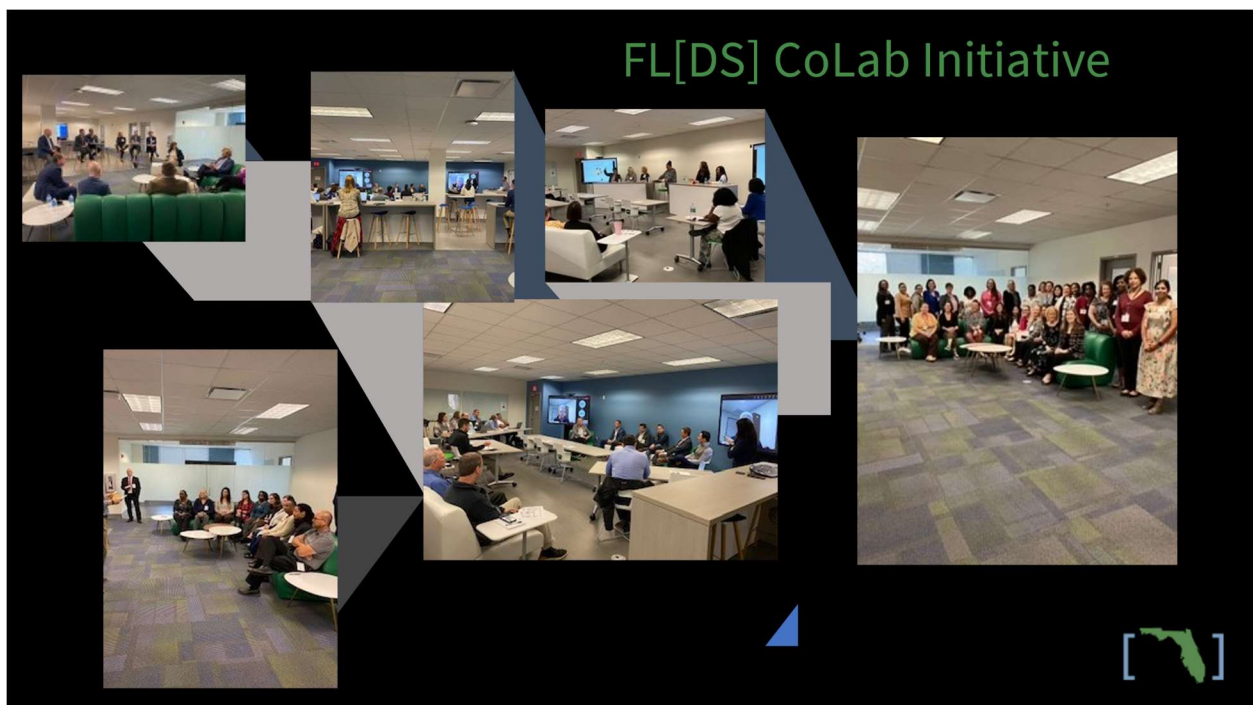
Leverage partner relationships.

Engage vendor community.

Cultivate agency relationships.

Develop peer talent.

Solve for increased resource shortage in the workforce. More than 50% of state and local government employees are considering leaving their jobs voluntarily.



FL[DS] CoLab Initiative  
Event Topics

- Leadership
- Soft Skills
- Communication/Content
- Policy/Legal/Compliance
- Procurement
- Project Management
- Cybersecurity
- Data Management, Analytics, Interoperability
- Cloud/System Modernization
- Technology and Innovation

FL[DS] CoLab Initiative - The Future

FL[DS] CoLab Initiative – The Future



Additional marketing



Expanding certification programs and continued education offerings



Collaboration and best practice sharing with other states



Statewide outreach  
"Taking the CoLab on the road"



Hosting local professional chapter meetings in the CoLab

Michael Dell famously said, "Collaboration equals innovation." These words most eloquently sum up the mission and success of the FL[DS] CoLab. By cultivating enterprise and partner relationship together in this unparalleled collaborative learning environment innovation most certainly abounds.