

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (“Triumph Gulf Coast”) has created a pre-application process to provide initial consideration of potential ideas for projects or programs that may seek an award of funding. Applicants are required to participate in the pre-application process. Notwithstanding the response from Triumph Gulf Coast on the pre-application form, an Applicant may still elect to submit an Application.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: City of Apalachicola

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: The City of Apalachicola is located within Franklin County, one of the eight disproportionately affected counties in Northwest Florida.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Lee Mathes

Title: City Administrator

Mailing Address: 1 Avenue E, Apalachicola, FL 32320

Telephone Number: 850-653-9319

Email Address: leemathes@cityofapalachicola.com

Website: www.cityofapalachicola.com

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Bring Me a Book Franklin, Community Action Head Start Program, Children's Learning Center, Work Force Gulf Coast

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In a maximum of three (3) pages, please describe the proposed project or program, including (i) the amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast; (ii) the amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program; (iii) the location of the project or program; (iv) summary description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties, and (v) a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pre-application process will **not** result in an award of funding by Triumph Gulf Coast. Rather, this process is designed to facilitate submission of ideas for potential projects or programs before the Applicant expends time and/or resources to complete a full Application. All Applicants for funding are required to complete an Application, which will be scored, and then considered for award in the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.



City of Apalachicola . 1 Avenue E, Apalachicola, FL 32320

www.cityofapalachicola.com

**Triumph Gulf Coast Pre-Application
City of Apalachicola Johnson Complex Proposal**

The City of Apalachicola seeks funding to renovate the Johnson Complex, transforming the building into a vital education and training center with safe and healthful working conditions. The Center would serve residents from their critical early years through adulthood, directed toward economic recovery for Franklin County and the broader Florida Gulf Coast area. This transformation would be accomplished by both restoring the complex and expanding the team of working partnerships to include The Children's Learning Center.

Located in Apalachicola, the county seat of Franklin County, the Johnson Complex is currently the center for non-profits serving Franklin County and surrounding area. Non- profits housed there include the Gulf Coast Work Force, Bring Me A Book Franklin (BMABF), Project Impact (PI), the Food Pantry and a community fitness center. The City Mayor's office is also in the building.

As Seafood Harvesting and Processing have declined due to fear precipitated by the BP oil spill and the lack of freshwater reaching the bay from the Apalachicola River, these non-profits have been working diligently to support the seafood workers and other impoverished residents as key participants in building a strong local economy.

The Johnson Complex is the former Apalachicola High School and is an existing facility. It is essentially sound but in great need of restoration. Employees and volunteers serving these non-profits, the people they serve (including children) and the mayor of the largest city in Franklin County are occupying a building with poor air quality, spotty air-conditioning and heating, roof leaks, out of date plumbing and electric, and no active fire alarm system.

As the seafood related economic base has declined, poverty has increased. For generations of Seafood Workers literacy was not required for the work force. With tourism fast becoming the economic base, there is a desperate need for a literate, educated work force including the hospitality, service and Tech support industries. For skilled workers, literacy is a basic requirement.

A huge body of research supports the facts that children who are exposed to a stimulating and vocabulary rich environment, learn to read, do well in school and are best able to financially support themselves and their families as adults. Many of Franklin County's children do not receive this early stimulation, entering kindergarten two years behind in expected development and failing to learn to read. Beyond third grade reading is needed to learn. Consequently, Franklin County has one of the highest school drop-out rates in Florida.

Head Start(HS) provides this supportive environment. However, in April, 2017, Capital Action which is the agency contracted to support Head Start withdrew Head Start from Franklin County. A task force of local citizens initiated actions to reverse this decision. The City offered a temporary facility for the school year (2017-18) and donated the permanent use of Wing A, approximately 25 % of the Johnson Complex for The Children's Learning Center. This availability of space was critical to retaining HS for Franklin County.

The Children's Learning Center will house Panama City based Early Care and Education Early Head Start, (ages birth to 3), Tallahassee based Community Action Head Start (ages 3-4) and Bring Me A Book Franklin (BMABF) which in partnership, will serve the children and families of Franklin County. Restoration of the Johnson Complex is a critical link to retaining a Head Start program in Franklin County.

The renovation of the Johnson Complex and the creation of The Children's Learning Center within the Complex will support and enhance the partnerships already developed among the non-profits housed there, in particular, Early Head Start, Head Start, Bring Me A Book Franklin, Project Impact and the Gulf Coast Work Force.

The Early Head Start and Head Start will provide safe child care from birth to four, early stimulation and education, including well and dental checks, lead testing and other services greatly needed by struggling families.

BMABF will add to the 8,000 plus children's books gifted to families through well-checks at 8 clinics throughout Franklin and Gulf Counties; provide weekly Read Aloud sessions in multiple early education settings, including Early Head Start, Head Start, pre-K and K classes in the Franklin County Consolidated School and the ABC Charter School; and provide parent involvement, education and training. BMABF maintains 50 open-faced community book cases, stocked regularly with children's books and placed in classrooms and clinic waiting rooms. These book cases were built by inmates at The Franklin County Correctional Institute (a Florida State prison) and materials were purchased and/or donated by the local Carrabelle and Apalachicola Ace Hardware stores.

Project Impact was established by Congress as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The local program serves a minimum of 167 children with programs for elementary, middle and high school students. The program is based at the Complex and is also carried out at the nearby ABC Charter School. After-school programs are focused on academic enrichment. The program also provides a full-day six-week summer camp, additional holiday camps when school is closed plus a 4 hour Saturday program offering Credit Recovery for 6-12th grade students. Project Impact students are trained by BMABF to become Read Aloud Readers to the younger children.

Early Head Start, Head Start and Project Impact, along with providing their respective education and health services, offer an invaluable service for working families. Without safe child care seafood workers and others who are unemployed cannot move out of welfare and seek training and employment. These child centered non-profits provide safe child care throughout significant hours of the work week. As parents and caregivers are now free to work, they are referred to the Gulf Coast Work Force for GED referral to the Franklin County Consolidated School, education and training.

The Children's Learning Center and the Gulf County Community College are exploring a partnership whereby college students, interested in careers in early education, social work and health services, would be provided an opportunity for internships.

The Gulf Coast Work Force operates under the Oyster Recovery Fishery Failure grant and serves seafood workers and anyone affected by the 2012 BP Oil Spill. The Work Force's services include referral for GED prep, career match for job seekers, referrals for education, training, veterans and ESL services. Career referrals include CDL (commercial driver's license), Corrections, Heavy Equipment, Auto Mechanics, Welding, Electric, Plumbing, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration, Digital Design (IT), LPN (nursing) and Welding, compensation for which exceeds the average hourly rate. Follow-up services along with tools and equipment are provided free of charge to the workers.

i) Funding Requested The amount of funding requested is. \$1,750,000 of which \$400,000 is designated for

The Children's Learning Center.

ii) Local Matches and Sustainability The value of local matches from private donations, city, state and federal grants exceeds \$1,934,000 as follows:

- The City of Apalachicola building donation valued at \$577,000, \$25,000 cash towards renovation of The Children's Learning Center wing and the City does not charge rent, (only utilities, insurance and maintenance fees) to non-profits. At \$1 per square foot this represents an annual match of \$252,000.
- Early Education and Care (EEC) spends \$12,000 and Capital Action (CA) \$11,000 per student to cover administration, rent, utilities, direct services including meals, health services and therapy. This amounts to a total match of \$566,000 annually for the children enrolled at the Children's Learning Center.
- EEC and CA are seeking supplementary Head Start funding from the US Dept. Health and Human Service for classroom renovation and outfitting.
- Bring Me A Book Franklin has been assured by its founding family that private financial support of an annual budget of \$41,000 for the foreseeable future will be provided. An additional \$4,000 is provided for The Children's Learning Center.
- The City of Apalachicola has received a 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (CCLC) grant established by congress which funds Project Impact. The grant goes through 2019 and is approximately \$435,000.
- The Gulf County Work Force is funded by the Oyster Recovery Fishery Failure Grant.
- The Early Learning Task Force is organizing fundraising events with the first event 12/12/ 2017.
- Professional in-kind donations for the Children's Learning Center total to date \$35,000

Volunteer workers have been recruited for renovation preparation and room outfitting.

iii) Location The Van Johnson Complex is located at 192 Coach Wagoner Blvd, Apalachicola, FL, 32320

iv) Summary Renovation of the Complex will provide a safe and healthful working environment for the key non-profits that provide services for seafood workers and their families. Services will be expanded to include The Children's Learning Center providing early education, child literacy and health services directed toward promoting success in school and increased graduation rates. The proximity of services will facilitate referrals of parents and caregivers to the Gulf Coast Work Force for help with training, education and job placement. and promote the partnership with the Franklin County Schools and the Gulf Coast Community College to provide training and employment opportunities. Early Head Start, Head Start and Project Impact will continue to provide child care during working hours so that seafood workers can, with the help of the Gulf Coast Work Force, and these other partnerships, pursue education training and employment. Within the renovated Johnson Complex, these partnerships will work side by side promoting sustainability of a skilled work force needed for a thriving economy.

General improvements throughout the Johnson Complex will consist of roof repairs, plumbing and drainage pipe repairs, mold inspection and treatment if needed, fire safety system, updating of heating and air conditioning and renovation of the kitchen. Additional program support and repairs to the Children's Learning Center include children's books for distribution, materials for community book cases, general renovations for health and safety, restrooms, HVACs, playground areas, fencing, driveway and parking.

v) Timeline If funded, the proposed project can be initiated immediately and would be complete within 18 months.