

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: _____

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: _____

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: _____

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.

Executive Summary for the Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project

(i) Amount of Funds Being Sought from Triumph Gulf Coast

The total Project budget is \$46,359,000 and a detailed Budget and Budget Narrative will be submitted with the full Application. The grant Applicant seeks 25% funding (\$11,590,000) from Triumph Gulf Coast, which means that every dollar invested by Triumph will be leveraged four-fold.

(ii) The Amount and Identity of Other Sources of Funds for the Proposed Project

The Applicant is in discussions with local governments in the Project service area to contribute land, infrastructure, boat slips, staff support, promotional support, and other valuable assistance to the Project. Additionally, the applicant is preparing detailed applications for submission to other private and public grants (for example, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, the National Resource Damage Assessment, etc.) to fund the balance of the Project. The Applicant has already briefed some of these grantors and is optimistic the Project will be funded. To eliminate risk to Triumph, the Applicant requests any award from Triumph be reserved in escrow until the 75% matching balance is secured (approximately 180 days).

(iii) Location of the Project

Project is implemented in all 8 disproportionately affected counties and benefits the health and welfare of all citizens, properties, businesses, and visitors. Project will be principally conducted upon the waters of the *Gulf Intracoastal Waterway*, also known as “*Maritime Interstate 10*” due to its tremendous contributions to the regional economy.

(iv) Summary Description of the Proposed Project

According to economic development leaders, the single best way to enhance our future economy is to protect and enhance the major drivers behind the Gulf Coast’s existing economic engine. In northwest Florida, tourism is one of those primary drivers, and tourism is fueled by clean water and sugar sand beaches.

Unfortunately, as we learned from catastrophic events such as the 2010 BP Oil Spill and the June 29, 2016 “*One ATLANTA News*” false report that flesh-eating bacteria had closed some Panhandle beaches, even the wrongful perception of polluted water is enough to decimate our regional economy with no industry being spared.

In fact, an economic analysis of the effects of this one false media report found that it caused lodging cancellations of 32% within 24 hours. And, had the report not been immediately refuted and retracted, lodging businesses in the Project area would have sustained financial losses of \$46,591,801 and the counties would have sustained bed tax losses of \$2,122,130 over a single week. This analysis does not even include the trickle-down economic impacts to tourism industries such as fishing and shell fishing, real estate, retail, restaurants, entertainment, etc.

Furthermore, sewage effluent has been linked to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of harmful algal blooms such as red tide. A 1995-1999 University of Florida study found that red tide events in the Fort Walton Beach and Destin areas reduced restaurant revenues by 29% and lodging revenues by 35% (\$2.8 million and \$3.7 million per month respectively), which is far greater than any losses associated with tropical storms and other weather-related events.

The *Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project* has demonstrated to be a proactive, practical, and comprehensive solution for a pressing problem which is only going to fester without action. This Project is literally a transformational investment for the maintenance and enhancement of public marine infrastructure which will improve the overall quality of life for every resident and visitor to the Florida Panhandle and position Northwest Florida with aquatic capacity to accommodate future growth and prosperity for generations to come. That is why the Project is garnering substantial support from leaders across a wide array of industries including; the military, tourism, economic development, higher education, industry associations, citizen activists, etc.

Background

Scientific research is replete with evidence indicating that human sewage waste distresses marine environments and is a significant contributor toward life-threatening diseases. In fact, it is well-known that just the public perception of these water-quality stressors is tremendously damaging to otherwise robust tourism economies such as the one we enjoy in the Panhandle.

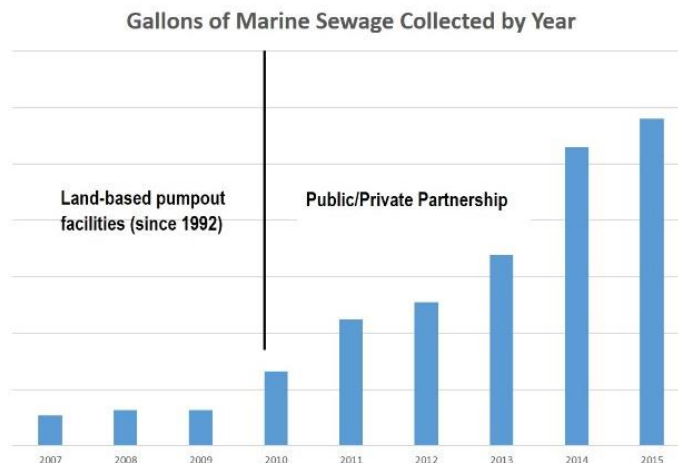
First of its Kind Public/Private Partnership to Combat Marine Sewage

In 1992 Monroe County, FL moved aggressively to remove septic tanks and to prevent illegal discharges of marine sewage by (1) deploying land-based sewage pumpout stations at docks throughout the Florida Keys, and (2) implementing regulatory measures to prevent illegal discharge of sewage that is generated by the boating community.

But, by 2010 it was evident that a more-comprehensive solution was needed. So, the Monroe County Commission, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Clean Vessel Act, and Mote Marine Laboratory proactively partnered with PumpOut USA, Inc. (which is the national leader in the marine waste industry) to help solve the County's marine sewage problem.

This public/private partnership – which is the first and only of its kind in history - placed six specially-crafted mobile marine pump-out vessels into service to provide free pump-outs to the boating community in the Florida Keys. The results are astounding;

- Even though significant investments in land-based pumpout facilities have occurred in Monroe County since 1992, last year the Public/Private Partnership collected and properly disposed of over 10 times the amount of sewage than all the land-based pumpout systems in the Florida Keys combined.
- Within only three years, the pilot program collected and properly disposed of more than 1,000,000 gallons of raw marine sewage. According to the FDEP, marine sewage is between 9 and 15 times more concentrated than household sewage, so the Pilot Program has already prevented the net equivalent of ~12,000,000 gallons of municipal sewage from entering the waterways of the Florida Keys.
- Most-importantly, the Pilot Program is changing the culture and mindset in Monroe County regarding the illegal discharge of marine sewage. In fact, public pride in the program has cultivated citizen-driven compliance which is significantly improving water quality throughout the Florida Keys.



Obviously, the data gathered through this Public/Private Partnership demonstrates that sewage generated by the boating community plays a much larger role in marine pollution than once believed.

New Project for Northwest Florida

Building on these successes, the grant Applicant is in the process of establishing a similar program for Northwest Florida. This new Program is called the “*Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project*” (the Project).

The Panhandle is an economically and environmentally important part of the State, where over the last 20 years the permanent population base of the region has doubled, tourism has tripled, and water-dependent activity has grown by 600%. During this same timeframe communities in the Panhandle have invested billions in upland infrastructure to accommodate this growth, but there has been negligible corresponding investment in the quality of our marine infrastructure.

This Project is critically important for the Panhandle because most of the bays and estuaries of Northwest Florida are already listed as “Impaired” on the EPA’s Waterbody Quality Assessment Report and because water quality testing in our area routinely returns poor results for elevated levels of enterococci – which indicates the presence of fecal contamination.

Extrapolating the actual results from the Monroe County pumpout partnership suggests that implementing a similar program in the Project service area (where there are more than 83,000 registered vessels) would collect and properly dispose of the net equivalent of over 92,000,000 gallons of raw household sewage that may otherwise be disposed overboard in the near shore waters of Northwest Florida. Even further, chemical additives (which are used to deodorize sewage holding tanks) further compound the harmful effects of marine sewage upon our critical marine environment.

Specific details of the *Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project*

- The Project will place fourteen special-purpose pumpout vessels and five floating comfort stations (restrooms) into service within the eight (8) disproportionately affected counties.
- Each of these vessels will provide free pump-outs to the entire boating community within the service area. The cost-free feature is the catalyst that guarantees complete voluntary compliance without the need for regulatory enforcement.
- Each pumpout vessel will also provide aesthetic environmental improvements by collecting and disposing of household garbage it finds floating within the service area.
- The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (which is a 501(c)3 organization chartered under Northwest Florida State College) is a co-applicant on the Project. The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance will integrate a service-area-wide STEM education program which is designed to increase students’ technology skills and prepare them for future occupations. In conjunction with the Project’s comprehensive Sustainability Plan (which will be detailed in the grant application), this partnership will provide continual outreach to the public, stakeholders, and policy-makers to ensure the Project remains on track to meet its quantifiable outcome measures, and will ensure the economic and environmental benefits of the Project are generationally sustainable.
- The Project will partner with local governments to provide services, infrastructure, land, and other assistance.
- The Project generates maximum economic benefits, no government expansion, and creates 32 net new private-sector jobs, many of which are in a Rural Economic Opportunity Area. These new jobs pay wages and benefits of \$13,400,000 over life of the award period which is above the national average household income. The Applicant is working with Mrs. Cori Henderson of Enterprise Florida to quantify the economic output of the Project over the duration of the investment.
- The Project leverages partnerships with Northwest Florida State College, tourism organizations, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, military installations, and others across the region.
- The Project dovetails perfectly with region’s multiple new Estuary programs which rely upon clean waters.
- The Project is uniquely bipartisan which equally benefits all boaters from the impoverished to the ultra-wealthy.
- Just as the 1971 “*Keep America Beautiful*” anti-littering campaign changed America’s tolerance for illegal dumping of roadside trash, the *Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project* will forevermore change Northwest Florida’s tolerance for illegal dumping of marine sewage, and thereby enhance our economy and environment.

(v) Timeline for the Proposed Project

The Applicant is prepared to commence work within 180 days of award by Triumph and the applicant will perform this work for the duration of the award period.