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: ~~Okaloosa County~~

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: County government

Contact Information:

        Primary Contact Information: Jane Evans
        Title: Grants & RESTORE Manager
        Mailing Address: 1250 N Eglin Pkwy Suite 102   Shalimar, FL 32579
        Telephone   850-651-7521
        Number: Email   jevans@co.okaloosa.fl.us
        Address: Website: www.co.okaloosa.fl.us

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

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.
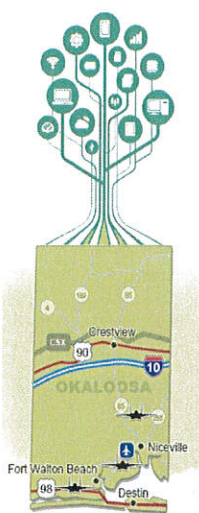
IMPORTANT NOTICE

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.

Triumph Required Executive Summary:

Pre-Application (Maximum of 3 pages)

Describe the proposed project or program: **"Digital Okaloosa"**

Digital Okaloosa

Digital Infrastructure Transformation

Empowering Tomorrows Economy

The digital age is here and now. Fundamental to economic growth is infrastructure. High-speed data and communications power today and tomorrow's business and communities. Dark Fiber is the foundation for broadband data, voice and Internet communications. Dark Fiber is often overlooked as critical infrastructure because people think of roads, water, and sewer. However, dark fiber, when it comes to economic development is not a nice to have, it is a critical piece of infrastructure. It is a critical factor in corporate site selection and an important variable in economic growth as well as a force multiplier for education. Okaloosa County proposes to leverage our existing investment in fiber optic infrastructure to expand into the six industrial parks, and expanding current e-government capability. Our plan consists of 2 elements: 1. Connected Business, and 2. Connected Government. Every element of society benefits economically from this type of infrastructure. It elevates Okaloosa County and our region now and positions us competitively for the future.

(i)   The amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast:

      1. **Connected Business:**   **$3,852,814**

      2. Connected Government: $2,500,000

                                         Total: **$6,352,814**

(ii)   The amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program:

Okaloosa County has already invested over $11 million dollars designing, building and operating over 220 miles of existing high quality fiber optic infrastructure. Each of the proposed connected elements will utilize this existing backbone infrastructure. This "in-kind" contribution is significant and essential to any build-out of this nature. Additional funding will be available through the BCC for the length of the project.

(iii)   The location of the project or program: Okaloosa County, Florida:

Connected Business: campus conduit system and dark fiber capacity to the 6 industrial parks in Okaloosa County from a "to be determined" demarcation point. Laurel Hill Industrial Park, Destin Industrial Park, Fort Walton Beach Industrial Park, Holt Industrial Park, Okaloosa Industrial Air Park and Shoal River Ranch. Additional fiber is programmed for Baker, FL to support rural law enforcement, public safety, landfills, and future expansion for rural economic investment.

Connected Government: Eliminates several single point of failure segments on the north/south backbone through Eglin AFB, while leveraging existing fiber to 7th SFG compound and partial rings in the Crestview area. This will greatly increase reliability and mitigate downtime due to storms, power outages, utility cuts, and other unforeseen circumstances and is a must to provide robust communications to industrial parks.

(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:

Communities that invest in dark fiber receive a 10x return in economic development for every dollar invested. A 2005 study, which focused on Lake County Florida, concluded that "broadband infrastructure can be a significant contributor to economic growth". The study "quantified the effect on economic development resulting from a community's investment in a broadband network". By quantifying the economic effects the study showed that when comparing Lake County with similar communities in Florida, that Lake County had "experienced 100 percent – a doubling – in economic growth relative to its Florida peer counties" since investment and deployment. It is a chicken and egg scenario. Economic development is less likely to happen if critical infrastructure is not planned and in place in advance. When communities lack good broadband access, corporate site selectors cross them off their lists and residents move away in search of better jobs. Cited in a 2011 article in Site Selection Magazine titled The Importance of Broadband to Economic Development: Site selectors report that communities that lack suitable broadband infrastructure are routinely eliminated from consideration as potential sites for location or relocation. Although the presence of a robust broadband network may not itself be sufficient to persuade an organization to come to or stay in a community, the absence of such a network guarantees that potential employers will go elsewhere. Okaloosa County has made a significant investment in dark fiber. This has facilitated e-government and connected county facilities. It has also tied into the Florida wide LambdaRail project that connects research and higher education facilities to provide the digital infrastructure to promote scientific research and development. While these initiatives have made

significant progress, they do not address the broader need to facilitate economic development. Digital Infrastructure is not just a tool that is used to manage growth in transportation systems, energy grids, and public services; it is a catalyst in driving economic growth. Today's communities are taking proactive steps to ensure that their communities are equipped with next-generation internet infrastructure. Like other communities, Okaloosa's economic livelihood depends on it. Our Triumph Project proposal is not only transformational and forward thinking, it is vital to Okaloosa County's long-term economic growth as well as the economic growth of Florida's Great Northwest Region and the State of Florida

(v)   A summary timeline for the proposed project or program:

Digital Okaloosa is to be a 3 year phased project:

Year 1: Connected Business, Government:
(FWB, Destin, Shoal River, Laurel Hill Campus, Air Park)
(Diverse buildout of backbone through Eglin AFB to Crestview)
(Increase fiber capacity on backbone segment) $2,507,340

Year 2: Connected Business, Government:
(Holt IP middle mile backbone)
(Baker, Old Bethel diverse ring)   **$2,145,474**

Year 3: Connected Business:
(Laurel Hill middle mile backbone)
(Additional fiber capacity along key segments) $1,700,000

                                        Total: **$6,352,814**