

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: Walton County Sheriff’s Office

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: The Walton County Sheriff’s Office, Jail Division, offers a variety of educational programs to the incarcerated inmates. The Sheriff’s Office wants to expand those programs to be more vocational in support of the regions workforce needs.

Contact Information:

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Emerald Coast Technical College, ReEntry Alliance of Pensacola, Inc., Walton County School District, Career Source, Florida State University

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:

The Walton County Sheriff's Office/Walton County Jail in partnership with Emerald Coast Technical College are seeking \$2,605,859.51 to create and expand on vocational and educational programs. We will be receiving approximately \$95,715.00 combined from the Walton County Sheriff's Office and Walton County School District.

The Walton County Sheriff's Office and its regional partners from the eight disproportionately affected counties are proposing a transformational program which will promote economic recovery, diversification and enhancement of the affected counties. This program proposes to provide educational and vocational opportunities to incarcerated individuals from Walton and Escambia counties, both disproportionately affected counties. We propose to work with our regional partners like ReEntry Alliance of Pensacola (REAP) to provide a variety of skills training and reentry opportunities. Walton County Sheriff's Office will partner with Florida State University in order to assist in developing outcome measures and program validation.

Through Triumph, Walton County Jail (WCJ) and its regional partners will enhance the current workforce programs available to the Emerald Coast Technical College and WCJ to furnish the needed underpinnings that support expanded economic recovery for industries in the disproportionately affected counties. Through partnership with Walton County Sheriff's Office, Emerald Coast Technical College proposes to help promote economic opportunity for both the general public and regionally incarcerated individuals (prior to and after their release) by providing access to short term, high quality targeted skills training that prepares individuals for currently available jobs in the regional economy. This will increase the capacity of the local workforce to address the current expansion as well as address expansion anticipated by Triumph funded projects. Previously incarcerated, recently released individuals make available an untapped workforce resource to address economic development needs when labor markets tighten. This will all reduce the economic cost of re-incarceration when individuals are unable to find sustainable employment due to no skills/low skills. The Deep Water Horizon oil spill caused a significant drop in tourism and therefore disproportionately affected individuals who were employed in low/no skill jobs. Individuals with a criminal record often have difficulty finding suitable employment post release. Vocational Screening will be completed with the assistance of CareerSource who is a partner with American Job Center. Vocational screening will help to ensure that inmates are provided career opportunities that are not prohibited by their criminal history and line up with their interest and aptitude.

The proposed workforce training program will help support other industries that may need to rebuild, enlarge or relocate businesses to Florida. The construction trades industry cluster (heavy equipment technician, air conditioning, building construction) and the manufacturing cluster (welding) help provide the crucial workforce infrastructure/foundation to expand, attract and sustain multiple businesses, including those that are on the targeted industry list. The proposed workforce training program expansions will be delivered through the Florida Department of Education postsecondary adult vocational curriculum frameworks for air conditioning, refrigeration, and heating technology, building construction technology and welding technology. These programs prepare students for multiple industry certifications listed on the CAPE (Career and Professional Education Act), thereby contributing to the expansion and sustainability of a vibrant Florida economy while providing the student with a clear pathway to additional educational opportunities at the technical college/center and state college levels.

This proposal provides participants with transferable sustainable workforce skills applicable to

correlated to specific job titles listed in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. For example, students may exit with training to qualify as a helper/assistant only 250 clock hours in the air conditioning program. Students would have EPA 608 certification at that point. However, students who continue their workforce training will advance to the technician level, achieving industry recognized credentials that are applicable to an even wider spectrum of employers serving both residential and commercial customers. Program completion would also support entrepreneurship/self-employment opportunities for the student.

This proposal will promote economic opportunity by enhancing workforce training. Two proposed programs in the proposal are on the Eligible Training Providers List with the Department of Economic Opportunity. Building Construction Technology has recently been proposed for inclusion in response to area business/industry request. The air conditioning and welding programs reported a completion rate of 83% and placement rate of 100% for the past two years, attesting to both the need for workers as well as the capacity of Emerald Coast Technical College to deliver high quality workforce skills training.

Welders, Cutters, Solders and Braziers are listed on the 2017-2018 Florida Statewide Demand Occupations List with 528 annual openings, an entry wage of 12.76/hour; mean wage of 18.24/hour and are noted as an Enterprise Florida Inc. targeted industry. With anticipated annual enrollment of 25/class and an anticipated full program completion of 21, the projected economic impact of the welding program with entry level wages, alone, would amount to over half a million dollars. Workers who report with high quality experience afforded in value-based workforce training, along with earned industry credentials should report higher rates, leading to even greater economic impact for this program. Growth and replacement demand of 12 (JobsEQ 2017) are projected for this occupation. So, this proposal can adequately address the need for welders in Walton County while helping the need for the surrounding workforce region. Employers/industry presenting the highest demand for this occupation are building and structure contractors, utility system construction and ship/boat building. Walton County Jail and Emerald Coast Technical College have reached out to business in the eight disproportionately affected counties and verified the need and their willingness to hire well skilled former inmates.

Air Conditioning refrigeration and heating technology prepares students for employment in the local region as well as the state. Growth and replacement demand is forecast at 23 and 14 respectively over the next seven years. Demand for these workers in Walton County is primarily found with building equipment contractors. With estimated wages of \$33,400/year; the economic impact of providing 21 workers per year would amount to \$701,400 to the local economy.

Heavy Equipment and Building Construction technology prepares workers for a variety of jobs that support construction growth in the local/state economy. Program completers are afforded viable entry pathways into higher responsibility and pay after attaining additional postsecondary training. For construction, the average wage is over \$50,000.

Although not included in this matrix, the estimated economic impact for replacing re- incarceration with sustainable employment may amount to over \$10,500/jail inmate who successfully completes the program. So, a conservative estimated economic impact of this proposal amounts to \$1,756,272 per year.

This is an ongoing project which would be enhanced by Triumph funding. If Triumph funding is received we will expand our programs to include more regional participation and allow for more individuals to be trained thus furthering the economic impact and sustainability