

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, offers a variety of educational programs to Public Safety professionals and other county employees. The Sheriff’s Office wants to expand those programs to be more vocational in support of the regions workforce needs. In additional, we wish to expand our capability to provide command and control during natural disasters, major public gatherings, and enhance crime reduction efforts.

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: Walton County Board of County Commissioners, Walton County School District, Walton County Public Works

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 (WCSO) is seeking to build a comprehensive Public Safety Communications and Training Center for the stated purpose of enhancing public safety and promoting economic development. This facility would encompass approximately 15,000 square feet on the existing 55-acre parcel allotted to the WCSO. In addition, a 180,000-square foot, non-permeable driving surface would be constructed adjacent to the training center on the same 55-acre parcel. The preliminary statement of probable cost is \$10,700, 370. We are seeking \$8,000,000 from Triumph funding to support this project.

The center would house the WCSO Public Safety Communications Center and allow for physical expansion over current facilities. The Public Safety Communication Center is the Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for all 911 calls originating within Walton County. Calls are received at the PSAP and then routed/dispatched to the appropriate public safety responders (i.e. Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Animal Control, Emergency Management, Code Enforcement). This function has experienced a constant annual growth of 27% in total call volume. In times of disaster, this center would host the secondary PSAP of DeFuniak Springs and the South Walton Fire District PSAP if needed. In event of local emergency or disaster, Okaloosa County PSAP could also co-locate in the center until normal operations were restored.

In addition to the Communications function, the center would house command and control functions in times of disaster and provide for Incident Management of developing situations. This would be facilitated and leveraged through video technology. Cameras located throughout Walton County would or could be fed live into the Command and Control Center. By partnering with other governmental entities (i.e. Board of County Commissioners, School Board, Clerk of Courts, DeFuniak Springs, Paxton, Freeport, etc.), critical infrastructure providers (CSX, Chelco, Gulf Power, Regional Utilities), commercial enterprises (The Howard Group, San Destin Resorts, etc.), and residential partners, video feeds can leverage the manpower required to monitor developing situations in real time. This would allow for a unified response by First Responders when responding to public emergencies including natural disasters, or crime and disorder. This function would supplement county Emergency Management (EM) and promote seamless integration between EM and the WCSO as with any activation of the EOC inextricably involves the WCSO.

The remaining function of the center and the associated driving pad would be to house regional training. This training would not only include traditional Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS training but would be expanded to offerings that would include other governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO). For example, training (both classroom and driving pad) would be offered to the School Board for bus drivers as well as employees who drive School Board vehicles. This training not only enhances the driver's skills but will have positive economic impact in the form of reduced automobile insurance premiums. Teen Driver Challenges would be offered for students to enhance their safety and the safety of others sharing the road with these new drivers. Motorcycle training is also a viable option. Public Works would also participate in heavy equipment training for their employees, experiencing the same benefits as the School Board. Other NGOs (Chelco, Regional Utilities, etc.) would also have the opportunity to participate and use the facility.

Other training programs benefit civilians as well. For example, we teach Rape Aggression Defense for females. We plan to develop classes to identify and mitigate fraud, particularly in vulnerable populations like the elderly. We are also planning "life" classes designed to help young adults with issues such as budgeting, job interviews, parenting, and emotional intelligence.

These initiatives meet not only the spirit of the Triumph legislation but also the letter of the law. The following section will address the priorities identified for economic recovery.

- While it is difficult to quantify direct ad valorem tax rate reductions, it is apparent that a causal relationship between services that are regionalized through this training center would reduce the individual training burdens on each agency. An economy of scale would be realized through this collaborative partnership.
- The local match requirements identified in F.S.S. 288.0655 are met by in-kind donations of the land that the center would sit upon and the new and existing technology required to operate the center.
- This center would be considered public infrastructure because of the unique public-private nature of the training facility.
- The ongoing, sustainable training provides for trained personnel who can respond to local disasters.
- This project will provide participants with transferable, sustainable workforce skills and are not confined to a single employer.

It is our position that this project qualifies for priority consideration in the application process because of the transformative nature of this project. Rather than a traditional public safety training center that is closed to the public at large, this project is a regional facility open to other governmental and non-governmental agencies needing work-force training in a more vocational setting. These are traditionally areas that existing K-12 programs are not addressing or not addressing effectively.

- Once that project is completed, the continued operation of the center would fall under the normal annual budget oversight.
- Funding from other governmental agencies and private partners would provide ongoing maintenance of the facility.
- This project would provide local investment and spending through selection of contractors and builders from the affected counties.
- This project would be supported by all participating agencies (i.e. Board of County Commissioners, School Board, other constitutional officers, etc.)
- Performance metrics would be created and monitored in the usage of the facility.
- The project would be designed with potential for expandability and growth to accommodate regional participation.