

## **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:                         OPPORTUNITY PLACE, INC. ("OPI")                        

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: July 2015, OPI became an independent 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization (EIN# 447-4430255). OPI is the only shelter for Okaloosa / Walton county women and families who are homeless. In addition to providing safe shelter, OPI provides comprehensive support services and help achieving financial security and housing stability. OPI is located in the Sylvania Heights neighborhood (which is a brownfield community).

### Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information:                         Debra McDaniel                          
Title:                         Executive Director                          
Mailing Address:           305 Lovejoy Rd NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548                          
Telephone Number:                         850.659.3190 (mobile: 860.977.2812)                          
Email Address:                         debra@opifwb.org                          
Website:                         www.opifwb.org                        

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.

OPPORTUNITY PLACE, INC (OPI)

SHELTER OPERATIONS / SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Amount of Funding Request: \$30,000.00

Location of Project / Program: 305 Lovejoy Rd, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 32548

Total Operating Budget: \$488,000.000

Timeline: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Project / Program Summary Description:

Opportunity Place, Inc., is the only temporary emergency shelter for single women and families with minor children serving Okaloosa and Walton Counties. We are seeking funds to landscape the central area where children play and families gather (\$5,000) and cover the direct cost associated with providing shelter for twenty (20) Veterans and single women (\$25,000).

As a shelter, OPI provides services for the chronically homeless as well as those who are "situationally" homeless. They are single female Veterans, families who have been displaced, mothers with children who abandoned or fleeing from a domestic violence situation; or a grandmother (caring for her grandchild) who lost her job and housing due to an illness.

On any given day, between 24-36 homeless individuals find refuge at Opportunity Place and are no longer living in high-risk environments (vehicles, woods, or other places not intended for human habitation). Single women between 18-70 and families with infants (some born while their mother was staying at the shelter). Between July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017, Opportunity Place, Inc., provided 9,998 sheltered nights, 24,995 meals and supportive services to 210 individuals (of which 115 were children, 16 were single women and 23% came from domestic violence situations).

The actual shelter (bricks and mortar) and resourceful staff and volunteers are the tools used to help clients achieve self-sufficiency. While staying at the shelter, parents are able to focus on finding a job and affordable housing because they no longer have to worry about keeping their children safe at night. They have a roof over their heads, nutritious meals, hot showers and basic need items. Opportunity Place also provides intensive case management, a computer lab, help with childcare, connections to community resources, and so much more.

As a result, more than 78% of the women and families leave Opportunity Place with improved financial security, housing and hope for a better tomorrow.

In conjunction with this grant, OPI will:

- Provide safe, secure, temporary emergency shelter and services for 20 female Veterans and single women, who would otherwise be homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- Connect clients to income support (SNAP, TANF, VA, 90-Works, etc.) and job opportunities (Career Source, job fairs, employers, etc.)
- Ensure clients complete a 5-unit financial planning/budgeting course.
- Address healthcare needs by enrolling clients in health care programs; make appropriate referrals to health care providers, dentists and Bridgeway.
- Improve the emotional, mental and physical needs of the women by connecting them to Bridgeway, healthcare providers and other programs that support healthy life-styles and well-being.
- Connect clients to affordable / permanent housing and resources (i.e., private, public, Section 8, assisted, Homelessness and Housing Alliance, 90-Works, Catholic Charities, etc.)
- Connect clients to public/community services that promote long-term financial security, housing stability and self-sufficiency.
- Improve the safety and availability of the outdoor common areas so families and children have a place to gather. (i.e., redirect runoff, rubberize ground surface and cover the children's play area, install a permanent bicycle rack for adult/children bikes and install sod).

# OPPORTUNITY PLACE, INC.

## TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTER OPERATIONS PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

Opportunity Place, Inc., provides safe, supportive, temporary emergency shelter for families with minor children and single women predominantly from Okaloosa, Walton and neighboring counties who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness – women and families who would otherwise be at risk living in their cars, woods or other places not intended for human habitation. We provide hope for a brighter future.

**Social Well-Being Issue:** 560 households / 629 individuals were identified as being homeless (sheltered/un-sheltered) in Okaloosa / Walton counties. (Jan 26, 2017, *Point In Time* count conducted in Okaloosa / Walton counties)

Impact: 200 or more, single women and families with children will have temporary emergency shelter in a safe, secure, and supportive environment in FY 2018-19.

Impact: Women and families enrolled at the shelter will be removed from high risk situations such as living in their vehicle or other place not intended for human habitation or in domestic violence situation.

**Economic and Social Well-Being Issues:** With homelessness comes financial / food insecurity and oftentimes, emotional/cognitive/physical health issues and lack of connections to community resources.

Impact: 80% of families and single women enrolled in the shelter are connected to income support, physical and behavior health care, social/community support, childcare services, employment opportunities, the school district, workforce programs and other supportive services that promote long-term financial security, housing stability and self-sufficiency. The head of household for each family will enroll with Career Source and ACCESS and must complete a five-unit financial planning/budgeting course.

Impact: Based upon need, clients will be referred to health care and mental health providers. 80% of clients will be enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare and/or other health care program and will obtain vital records.

Impact: 80% of single women and families enrolled in the shelter will exit with improved financial security, connections to community resources, childcare, sustainable earnings, access to mental, emotional and physical healthcare and/or permanent housing.

**Social Well-Being Issue:** Children who experience homelessness and poverty are five times more likely than their peers to become homeless as adults.

Impact: 80% of children needing help will be enrolled in early learning centers, childcare, after school programs and public school to improve academics and socialization skills. Families are connected to Bridgeway, Family First, Head Start, Healthy Start and other programs that support healthy families.

# OPPORTUNITY PLACE, INC.



**A SHELTER FOR WOMEN  
AND FAMILIES WHO  
ARE HOMELESS**

**OPPORTUNITY PLACE**

**SHORT TERM SHELTER. LONG TERM SOLUTIONS.**

**f** 305 LOVEJOY ROAD - FORT WALTON BEACH  
850.659.3190 - WWW.OPIFWB.ORG

[www.opifwb.org](http://www.opifwb.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/opifwb/>



**“In the Middle of Every Adversity Lies Opportunity.”** – Albert Einstein

**Opportunity Place, Inc.**, provides safe, supportive, temporary emergency shelter and crisis services for single women and families experiencing homelessness.

Clients are connected to income support, physical and behavior health care, community resources, childcare services, employment opportunities and other supportive services that promote financial security, housing stability and self-sufficiency. The majority of clients served are from Okaloosa and Walton counties. Our shelter is client and family-centered focused.

**Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017**, more than 207 individuals found respite and support at Opportunity Place. The majority were single-parent households; 25% had fled domestic violence situations; 115 sheltered were children (50% of those were under three years of age).

**Opportunity Place, Inc.**, helps the chronically homeless as well as those who are situationally homeless. Whether it is a single female Veteran; mother and children living in their vehicle; grandmother and grandson who lost their housing due to a medical emergency; or a family evicted because the landlord did not pay his mortgage – Opportunity Place helps this most vulnerable population achieve self-sufficiency.

## **Core Services.**

- Crisis Services (food, clothing, shelter and basic human needs are met)
- Temporary, emergency shelter
- Intensive Case Management (formation of personal service plan, budgets, resumes)
- Assistance securing sustainable employment, affordable housing, transportation, childcare, and medical/behavioral health care
- Connections to mainstream, community, faith-based and public resources
- Enhanced follow-up services

**We believe every woman, child and family** has the innate right to be safe and deserves an opportunity to succeed in life.

**To learn more about Opportunity Place go to our website, Facebook page and view this video:** [youtube.com/watch?v=9VvIL3r74QQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VvIL3r74QQ&feature=youtu.be)

**SHORT TERM SHELTER. LONG TERM SOLUTIONS.**