

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: Gulf District Schools

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Gulf District Schools is home to four public schools: two Pre-K through 6 elementary schools and two 7-12 high schools. There are approximately 1,900 students in the district. Over 60% are considered economically disadvantaged.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Jim Norton
Title: Superintendent
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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: not applicable

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 GULF COAST, INC.

PRE-APPLICATION FORM

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

(i) Funds being sought:

Gulf District Schools is requesting \$125,000 to be used to equip and agri-science facility at Wewahitchka High School. This would include, but may not be limited to:

- a greenhouse
- a tractor and attachments
- tillers and hand tools
- storage shed
- rabbit hutch, chicken coop, incubators, feeders, etc.
- aquaponics towers

(ii) Other funding sources:

There are two Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Grants which can be used to partially fund vocational programs in high schools. Perkins: Rural & Sparsely Populated Grant is approximately \$40,000. Perkins: Secondary Grant is less than \$20,000. While these grants are not substantial enough to cover the expense of initiating a new program, they can be utilized to sustain a program by providing funds for basic supplies. However, these funds must also be used to support every vocational program within the district which includes welding and digital information technologies.

The district will accept financial responsibility for the instructor's salary and benefits.

(iii) Location of program:

Wewahitchka High School

Wewahitchka, Florida

(iv) Summary description:

Funding provided through the generosity of the Triumph program will permit the expansion of a newly initiated agri-science program at Wewahitchka High School into a viable industry certification option. The program is in its infancy with one class of agri-technology and one class of agri-science being taught as electives this school year. The instructor has completed all certification requirements this year and is now eligible to see students through the complete industry certification process.

Currently, a traditional classroom is used to teach both the agriculture courses and science classes. Plants are being grown in buckets on the lawn area outside the classroom. Implements are haphazardly propped in corners as adequate appropriate storage is not available. Providing the proper equipment and storage would ensure greater success of the program.

Agri-technology is comprehensive in nature and in addition to the production of crops, it includes elements of animal husbandry, mechanics including small engine repair, and carpentry consisting of basic construction techniques. In short, it the curriculum teaches a variety of skills that would make a person more employable not only in an agriculture-based profession, but in a number of others as well.

With the recent land purchase by Desert Cattle and Timber in the Wewahitchka area. The company is rapidly becoming established and promises employment opportunities for qualified applicants. The installation of a full-scale agriculture program at the high school level would ensure local residents are among the applicant pool.

In addition to the industry certification offered through agri-technology classes, the circumstances would be ripe for the establishment of a chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA). FFA is a national organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of students by

developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.

(v) Timeline:

The purchase process will be initiated immediately upon receipt of the needed funds.