

## 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  
Mailing Address: 150 Middle School Road, Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Telephone Number: 850.229.8256  
Email Address: jnorton@gulf.k12.fl.us  
Website: www.gulf.k12.fl.us

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 \$600,000 to be used as follows:

- Purchase 4 schools buses\* at approximately \$125,000 each
- Install camera systems on new buses as well as existing fleet (approximately \$100,000)

\*Note: Optimally, one of the buses will be fueled by propane. Propane is less expensive to use and is more environmentally responsible. Adding a prototypical bus fueled by propane to the Diesel fleet will enable the district the opportunity explore the feasibility of incorporating alternative fuels.

(ii) Other funding sources:

No other funding sources are available without burdening the tax payers by raising ad valorem taxes.

(iii) Location of program:

Buses will serve all schools within Gulf District

(iv) Summary description:

Many factors influence the economic recovery of an area. Reduced to simple terms, there must not only be job opportunities, but qualified applicants to fill those jobs. Education of our youth is crucial. As a school district, we are tasked with providing each student a comprehensive education which includes mathematical computation and reasoning; advance literacy skills which include comprehension and writing; a mastery of communication skills and interpersonal relationships; and a variety of educational and occupational/vocational experiences which will prepare them to be successful and contributing citizens in our community.

In any business or organization an intricate infrastructure must first be in place before growth and expansion can be expected. A school system is no different. A critical part of the District's infrastructure is its transportation system. Currently the District's bus fleet is comprised of approximately thirty vehicles. Many of these vehicles are aging, some are not air-conditioned, and none are equipped with operable camera systems. It is an ongoing challenge to routinely replace the buses which need it the most and to maintain all others yet it is imperative to do so.

It is not enough just to transport students to and from school, afterschool/summer programs, athletic events, and other extracurricular activities. We must do so safely. Well-maintained vehicles are essential. The installation of camera systems on those vehicles is enormously beneficial. Recorded surveillance significantly reduces student discipline referrals and allows administrators to see exactly what occurred when there is an issue, allowing them to address matters in the most appropriate way possible. Cameras would also be instrumental in keeping students and drivers alike safe.

Triumph funding would permit the purchase of four badly needed school buses and the installation of cameras on the new buses as well as on the existing fleet. This investment in the local schools is indeed an investment in the community itself as it eliminates the need to raise ad valorem taxes to meet a significant operational need and facilitates our objective of producing a viable workforce for the future.

(v) **Timeline:**

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