

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 eligibility for potential ideas of 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

Proposal Title: Unmanned Systems (Drone Aviation)

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$750,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$750,000

Brief Description 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: Lori Price

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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 two (2) pages, please describe the proposed project or program and anticipated outcomes 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 reviewed and then considered for award at the discretion of Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Please Select the Proposal's Eligibility Category(s)

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was created to make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. The disproportionately affected counties are: Bay County, Escambia County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa Rosa County, Walton County, or Wakulla County. *See*, Section 288.08012.

1. From the choices below, please check the box that describes the purpose of the proposed project or program (check all that apply):

- Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately affected counties;
- Local match requirements of s. 288.0655 for projects in the disproportionately affected counties;
- Public infrastructure projects for construction, expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program;
- Grants to support programs that prepare students for future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible programs include those that increase students' technology skills and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention programs created by the Chancellor of the State University System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary education at a state university or a Florida College System institution within the disproportionately affected counties;
- Grants to support programs that provide participants in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer; and
- Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately affected counties.

Please Select the Priorities this Proposal's Outcomes will Achieve

1. Please check the box if the proposed project or program will meet any of the following priorities (check all that apply):

- Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the longterm economic growth potential of the disproportionately affected counties may be enhanced by the investment.
- Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.
- Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.
- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Benefit the environment, in addition to the economy.
- Provide outcome measures.
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.
- Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.
- Partner with convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chambers of commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed project and anticipated outcomes:

- (i) Amount sought: \$750,000
- (ii) Other sources of funds: not applicable
- (iii) Locations: Gulf District Schools
Port St. Joe High School (PSJHS)
Wewahitchka High School (WHS)
- (iv) Summary description of proposed program

In the 1970s, personal computers emerged as cutting edge and transformational. No one truly understood at the time the impact they would have on the business world, education, military, and society in general. However, they have become an integral part of daily life.

This is where unmanned systems are now. Unmanned systems, more commonly referred to as drones, are beginning to be used in a number of ways. The agriculture industry uses them to detect specific acreage in need of irrigation rather than water crops unnecessarily. The commercial and charter fishing industry uses drones to locate schools of fish. Search and rescue teams use them to search rough or remote terrain that would otherwise be difficult to search when seconds count. This will be but the beginning. The possibilities are endless and rapid and consistent growth are inevitable.

Florida is among the top ten states predicted to create jobs and revenue as production and use of drones continues. This translates to 49,334 jobs for the state with the Panhandle region expected to see 40% of that total (Jenkins, 2015).

Giving students the opportunity to obtain Small UAS Safety Certification and certification as a Visual Line of Sight System Operator (VOS) provides them an industry certification demonstrating expertise in the safe and professional application of remotely piloted aircraft making them highly qualified for careers in the burgeoning industry of unmanned aircraft systems. The project will be adapted for WHS to support agriculture applications (cattle, soybeans, aqua farming, etc.) as the area of agriscience pathways are expanded for students.

Acquisition of this grant would allow Gulf District Schools to immediately implement a drone certification program and, by the end of the third year, have a fully implemented, viable program working toward complete sustainability.

Funding would be used to hire a Drone Aviation Technician to train teachers and oversee the project, obtain drones and related peripheral equipment, provide safe and secure storage, purchase curriculum, and purchase certification exams. Gulf District School's contributions to this project total approximately \$652,000 over the life of the proposal.

Gulf District Schools plans to return to Triumph within the next 18-24 months with a proposal that would permit the expansion of this project to include FAA certifications in Ground School and Private Pilot License to prepare students for employment in the projected critical shortage career fields of commercial pilot, air ship operator and large unmanned commercial vehicles.

(v) Timeline

August – November 2018:

- introduce basic coding programs at the elementary level to build background knowledge and master the primary skills required for participation in the program in the future
- key teachers begin working on the required certification
- purchase enough drones for initial implementation

September – December 2018:

- develop a Drone Aviation Technician job description/position for submission to the Gulf County School Board for approval

October – January 2018:

- hire a Drone Aviation Technician to facilitate implementation of the program, coordinate expansion of the program, train teachers, serve as liaison to public, manage grant, etc.
- Purchase drones and any necessary peripheral equipment
- purchase two storage buildings to be used for safe storage of batteries decreasing risk of fire in main campus buildings

January 2019:

- Introduce UAS curriculum in the ROTC program at PSJHS and Agriscience program at WHS

June 2019:

- Train teachers to conduct summer drone day camps (see July 2019)

July 2019:

- conduct 3 four-day summer drone day camps for elementary, middle and high schools students which are facilitated by trained school faculty assisted by high school students who have achieved the first level of certification. This will generate interest among student body and faculty, create positive public relations and press, and encourage the partnership of area businesses.

August 2019:

- Full scale implementation of curriculum at both high schools

May 2020:

- First cohort of students complete 155 hours of course work and obtain Small UAS Safety Certification

May 2021:

- First cohort of students complete required curriculum and obtain Visual Line of Sight System Operator (VOS) industry certification

Works Cited:

Jenkins, D. (2015). "Determining the Future of Unmanned Systems (Commercial Drones –Air, Land, Sea) in the Florida Panhandle: Looking into the Panhandle's Future"