

Application Score Sheet

Proposed Project: Walton County Sheriff Office, Developing Resilient Individuals for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE) program (98)

Proposed Project/Program County: Walton

Board of County Commission Support: Yes

Total Projected Project Cost: \$4,451,565

Match Provided: 49.8%

Triumph Funds Requested: \$2,217,965

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$2,217,965

Score: A

Triumph Board Approval: Yes/No

Triumph Funds Approved by Board:

Date:

Economic Impact Analysis and Score

The Walton County Sheriff project will enhance services that help reintegrate incarcerated individuals into their families and communities. Funding is requested to build the driving pad and a classroom on the grounds of the Sheriff's Department that will allow establishment of a commercial driving license (CDL) program. Another expenditure item will be building of pole barn facilities on the campus of Emerald Coast Technical College to house the enhanced welding classroom/AWS testing facility and the HVAC enhanced classroom. The Triumph request of \$2,217,965 represents 49.8 percent of the total project cost of \$4,451,565.

FTEs generated by student enrollment at ECTC will be used to sustain programs at ECTC. In addition to welfare inmate funds generated at the Walton County Jail, these amounts will sustain each program and further be enhanced by transformational job growth in a labor pool in strong need of post-release support. Increased rates of self-employment will help lower rates of recidivism, thus conserving County resources and improving the quality of life of released inmates and their families.

In addition to the industry-specific certifications CDL; HVACE/NATE; AWS, the program will explore additional Career and Professional Education NS Post-Secondary Industry Certification certifications such as Certified Internet Web (CIW) Specialist certifications, Autodesk, Adobe, and Microsoft. These will be made available to support inmates in pursuing entrepreneurship.

A minimum of 352 appropriate industry certifications are anticipated in the initial two years at a cost of 6,301 dollars per unit. As a result of the added opportunities and technology at the Walton County Jail, the Walton County Sheriff's Office employees will be afforded the opportunity to complete the certifications. It is anticipated that these certifications will allow substantial time savings to be achieved and reallocated towards primary law enforcement

activities. The additional 150 certificates from the Walton County Sheriff's Office reduces the cost to 4,418 dollars per awarded certificate.

For the above reasons, staff rate this program as an "A" for Walton County.

Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)

Walton County Sheriff's Office is requesting \$2,217,965 of Triumph funds to expand programming to provide pre- and post-release technical education and certification training programs, in partnership with Emerald Coast Technical College (ECTC), the paving of a driving pad and classroom expansions.

Through the support of Triumph Gulf Coast, the Sheriff's office proposes that Developing Resilient Individuals for a Vibrant Economy (DRIVE) program will further develop its current inmate educational services by implementing and building on the Promoting Reentry Success Through Continuity of Educational Opportunities (PRSCEO) model to provide short-term, high quality, structured career education opportunities to select individuals incarcerated in the Walton County Jail, pre- and post-release.

Recognizing the challenges of those released from jail in successfully facing their additional obstacles fraught with lack of opportunity to re-enter the mainstream economy and earn a living wage, the Walton County Sheriff's Office developed a holistic approach to more effectively deal with the various criminogenic factors resulting in an inmate's incarceration.

In addition to providing evidence-based therapies for substance abuse treatment, including opioid addiction, the Walton County Sheriff's Office has invested substantially in education for jailed individuals by partnering with local education institutions to offer GED® programs, introductory welding programs, heavy equipment operations and OSHA10 training and certification to better equip incarcerated individuals for post-release life in their local communities. The welding program currently has a waiting list and the HVAC program is limited as it is offered in a small portable building and pole barn.

Along with these pre-release interventions, the Walton County Sheriff's Office has established post-release opportunity scholarships to encourage continuation of training programs already begun. The Walton County Sheriff's Office strongly believes these post-release programs as a vital part of successful inmate re-entry into the community and decreased recidivism.

The initial phase of this project will be directed toward building a trained labor/talent pool to support Northwest Florida's assets in transportation and infrastructure by establishing and implementing a training program in commercial vehicle driving - Class B Commercial Drivers License (CDL) - at the Walton County Jail and constructing a welding classroom at ECTC that will meet American Welding Society (AWS) requirements for certification testing.

The Walton County Jail currently provides heavy equipment training to inmates and the driving programs would enhance and expand the opportunities for students to add the Class B CDL to their skill sets. ECTC will provide curriculum support and assistance with instruction. An

expanded classroom for air conditioning, refrigeration and heating technology in the second year will complete this funding request from Triumph Gulf Coast.

For a two-year period post-release, Emerald Coast Technical College (ECTC) will award Postsecondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) clock hour credit for those previously incarcerated students who decide to enroll in correlating programs at ECTC.

ECTC will enhance programs that build on introductory career education offerings at the Walton County Jail. Such programs include welding technology and air conditioning, refrigeration and heating technology. This continuity of career education will present a pathway to certificate attainment and targeted degree attainment through statewide articulation agreements already in place.

When paving of the driving pad and classroom expansions are completed, and the programs are fully operational, the project is expected to yield a combined annual return of \$2,536,517 in general population wages, inmate wages and cost reductions due to decreased recidivism.

The welding program at ECTC will also be developed to pursue accreditation as an American Welding Society (AWS) accredited testing center. The nearest AWS accredited center available for this certification is located in Dothan, Alabama. HVAC programs at ECTC will also be expanded to accommodate increased student enrollment. Each of these programs appear on the 2018-2019 Statewide and Regional Demand Occupations Lists for the workforce development areas that include all of the disproportionately affected counties. (Highlighted RDOL Lists attached).

In addition to ECRC, the following agencies will provide supportive services in a case management approach: CareerSource, Okaloosa-Walton; Walton County Health Department and Chautauqua Healthcare Services. These partners currently have programs that can be leveraged to help support the specific needs of inmates and facilitate re-entry and employment as they are released without additional cost to Triumph Gulf Coast. Such services may include assistance with housing, mental health counseling, health care and employment assistance through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit provided to employers.

Along with other disproportionately affected counties, Walton County is currently experiencing one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state at 2.8% as reported in May 2018. The available labor pool for this same period is reported at 54 persons (trained/untrained) per job opening. Nearby counties indicate even fewer available workers per job listing. In order to circumvent potential barriers to full recovery and future economic development, this project proposes diversification of the locally available labor pool, reclaiming previously unavailable, unskilled, incarcerated individuals with jail sentences that are less than one year.

Previously incarcerated, recently released individuals make available an untapped workforce resource to address economic development needs when labor markets tighten. A well-trained, immediately accessible workforce is critical to economic development, diversification, and growth for the region. "Northwest Florida's ability to build a first- class workforce development,

retention, and attraction system that engages all communities and populations will be critical to enhancing the economic vitality of the region” (Northwest Florida Forward, p.12).

Recognizing the need for additional research along with the projected economic and civic value of the project, a replicable model along with evaluation metrics will be developed as the project progresses.

In addition to the industry-specific certifications CDL; HVACE/NATE; AWS, the program will explore additional Career and Professional Education NS Post-Secondary Industry Certification certifications such as Certified Internet Web (CIW) Specialist certifications, Autodesk, Adobe, and Microsoft. These will be made available to support inmates in pursuing entrepreneurship.

A minimum of 352 appropriate industry certifications are anticipated in the initial two years at a cost of 6,301 dollars per unit.

As a result of the added opportunities and technology at the Walton County Jail, the Walton County Sheriff’s Office employees will be afforded the opportunity to complete the certifications. We anticipate an additional 150 certificates from the Walton County Sheriff’s Office, which reduces the cost to 4,418 dollars per unit.

The Walton County Sheriff’s Office, Jail Division, serves the local law enforcement needs of Walton County, Florida. The jail also provides overflow inmate housing for Escambia County. The jail houses approximately 500 inmates on a regular basis.

Funding and Budget (as provided by the applicant)

5. Please provide a Project/Program Budget. Include all applicable costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

A. Project/Program Costs:

Construction: Classrooms	\$2,000,000	
Reconstruction:		
Design & Engineering:		
Land Acquisition:		
Land Improvement: paving	\$1,293,465	
Equipment:	\$852,000	
Supplies:	\$40,500	
Salaries:	\$145,000	
Other (specify):		
Tuition Supports	\$120,600	
Total Project Costs:	\$4,451,565	

Example Costs (Note: Not exhaustive list of possible Cost categories.)

B. Other Project Funding Sources:

Example Funding Sources (Note: Not an exhaustive list of possible Funding Sources.)

City/County – WCSO	\$995,600	
Private Sources		
Other (e.g., grants, etc.)		
WCSD/ECTC	\$1,238,000	

Total Other Funding: \$2,233,600
Total Amount Requested: \$2,217,965

Letters of Support

Walton County Board of County Commissioners
 Walton County Tax Collector

Welding Program at Northwest Florida State College
Chautauqua Healthcare Services
Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice