

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: Northwest Florida State College

Proposal Title: Walton Works Training Center of Excellence

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$2,763,716

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,734,367

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Located in the coastal heart of the Florida panhandle, Northwest Florida State College has earned a reputation for educational excellence and community involvement. As part of Florida's public system of 28 state and community colleges, NWF State College offers bachelor's degree programs, associate degrees, and certificates. The college's primary service district, which includes Okaloosa and Walton counties, stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to the Alabama state line. Northwest Florida State College offers 107 degrees and certificates and more than 1,000 courses each term. In addition to the main campus in Niceville, the College operates centers in DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, Santa Rosa Beach, and at Hurlburt Field.

Contact Information

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Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Walton County, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton

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.

Executive Summary

Northwest Florida State College, working with its partners in Walton County, proposes a project designed to diversify the region's economy and facilitate a skilled workforce pipeline. The Walton Works Training Center of Excellence in DeFuniak Spring will provide workforce skills in in four targeted industries: Aerospace and Defense; Architecture and Construction; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security; and Cybersecurity, with transferrable skills to the Manufacturing sector.

As identified in the Northwest Florida Forward Regional Strategy for Economic Transformation, skilled talent is the key to productivity improvements, higher wages, innovation and increased economic prosperity. The College respectfully requests a catalytic investment of \$2,763,716 over five years to establish a Walton Works Training Center of Excellence. Through this project the College will build its capacity to increase acquisition of high-value, industry-recognized credentials and expand transformational, demand-driven workforce development programs that address the unmet hiring needs of employers and fuel economic diversification and growth in the region.

As a result of Walton County's rapid growth in recent years (15% in 2010-2015) and projected 21% growth rate in 2015-2025, certain key industries are in high demand. Northwest Florida State College's Walton Works Training Center strives to meet this demand by providing a highly qualified, credentialed workforce.

Project Description:

The proposal's total budget of \$5,734,367 will enable Northwest Florida State College to offer 10 new workforce training programs in Walton County. By 2024, a minimum of **1,570 industry-recognized certifications** will be awarded at a cost of **\$3,652 per certification**. Of the certifications offered, 296 are on the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) list of approved industry-recognized certifications. The Walton Works Training Center will expand the number of short-term workforce training opportunities to address the unmet hiring needs of employers. The project will also build the capacity of the College to support students in earning family-supporting wages and fuel economic diversification and growth in the region. At the end of the five-year grant period, the Walton Works project will yield a 6.6:1 ROI with a \$43.4 million economic impact in terms of wages for the project.

The total cost of the project over the five-year grant period is \$5,734,367. The College is requesting 48% (\$2,763,716) from the Triumph Gulf Coast Board in seed funding to establish the new workforce training programs. The remaining 52% (\$2,970,651) comprises a \$1.5 million commitment from the Walton County Board of Commissioners and the balance from College resources. The project is fully self-sustaining after the five-year grant period.

Locating the Walton Works Training Center of Excellence at the College's Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs creates a training hub in the northern part of the County. The project will expand programs offered at the Chautauqua Center to allow Walton County residents to obtain a workforce certification in high-demand areas. Growing field such as Cybersecurity and Unmanned Vehicle Systems Operations will allow Walton County residents to participate in the workforce of today and tomorrow. The project provides Walton County residents access to relevant training opportunities that are responsive to job demands and create a path to higher educational attainment and careers. The project establishes the following workforce training programs:

- Cybersecurity Program;
- Unmanned Vehicle Systems Operations Program;
- Industrial Trades Program (Electrical, Plumbing, Construction, Welding & Millwright);
- Law Enforcement Program;
- Emergency Medical Technician Program; and
- Fire Science Program.

The College's Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs is currently comprised of two 13,000 square foot buildings. The College will reconfigure the classroom space into skills labs in one of the existing buildings. A new industrial trade building with a drone arena and a fire training tower will be constructed. The renovations and new construction are necessary to

accommodate the growth in the number of students, and the facility and equipment requirements for the new training programs. The proposed workforce training programs require both classroom instruction and hands-on laboratory activities for student learning.

The skills labs are designed to produce realistic conditions in a controlled environment. These simulated/guided learning experiences are immersive and replicate substantial aspects of the real world in a fully interactive manner. The industrial trade building will be designed to accommodate the proposed programs and include a vaulted ceiling to accommodate drone flight. The labs will also offer state-of-the-art facilities for county and regional collaborative opportunities to train, practice, and skill up as needed (e.g. public safety and first responders). Through a signed agreement with the Walton County Sheriff's Office, training participants will be able to access the county's firing range and driving range. In order to implement and offer the workforce training, the college will hire four full-time faculty members and a number of adjunct instructors.

Impact:

When fully operational, 292 individuals per year will participate in workforce training and education activities through the Walton Works Training Center, earning more than 400 certifications each year, totaling 1,570 in the first five years. The Walton Works project targets five industry clusters that have high growth opportunities for Walton County and/or are identified in the Northwest Florida Forward, Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Florida Jobs 2030, and West Florida Regional Planning Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2018 reports. All of the regional economic development initiatives noted above cite talent as the key driver for economic diversity. A skilled workforce attracts new businesses and creates increased productivity and efficiencies that enable existing businesses to expand. Without the training infrastructure to develop a skilled workforce across multiple industries, the capacity of the region to diversify its economy is reduced. Therefore, the programs offered at the Walton Works Training Center of Excellence were strategically selected to produce workers with skills that are applicable across multiple occupations and transferrable to additional industry clusters identified as priorities by regional development entities.

The Walton Works project also supports economic diversification by expanding the supply of workers within industries that have high demand for skilled employees and where the existing training programs are not producing sufficient graduates to fill the open jobs or projected growth in jobs. Support from Triumph Gulf Coast will serve as the catalyst for the Walton Works Training Center, which will continue to expand the number of individuals earning certificates having an even greater economic impact.

Timeline:

The Walton Works project is designed to deliver significant economic impact in the shortest amount of time. Some programs will come online as early as fall 2019 producing workforce certificates by the end of the calendar year. Following approval of the grant application, building renovation and construction will begin in 2019. Equipment purchases will begin in 2019. By Fiscal Year 2021, all Walton Works Training Center programs will be fully operational.

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.
- 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 the maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tolls and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including cost-benefit, return-on-investment, or dynamic scoring techniques to determine how the long-term 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, land, or other assistance to 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 the convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils, or chamber of Commerce located within the disproportionately affected counties.