

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: AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute
Proposal Title: STEM and Business Entrepreneurship Labs at the Maritime Academy
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$1,500,000.00
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,000,000.00

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: The Maritime Academy is High School located in downtown Panama City next to the City Marina. It is a partnership between AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute and North Bay Haven High School. Current programs offered are the Gaetz Aerospace Institute (Embry Riddle Aeronautical University concurrent enrollment), Sea Cadets, Marine Science, Water Safety and Outdoor Recreation, with Business Leadership (Embry Riddle concurrent enrollment) being offered in the spring semester 2020. When construction of the labs is complete, the Engineering Academy from North Bay Haven will be located at the Maritime Academy. All of the students come from North Bay Haven, which has over 900 students enrolled and has been an A rated school for over 15 years.

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: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Gulf Coast State College, North Bay Haven Charter School, AMIkids Inc., United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Resource Management Association, University of Florida Lakewatch Program, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport, The Aquatic Preserve, Tech Farms.

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.

STEM AND BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP LABS AT THE MARITIME ACADEMY

Executive Summary

The Maritime Academy and its partners are working together to furnish our Bay County students with the skills needed to pursue careers in developing fields right here in Bay County. We believe that the unmanned systems and related engineering career paths in addition to the business entrepreneur courses will prepare Bay County students for the new jobs that are coming soon to our area. Our courses align all of the focus areas of the report;

- **Talent:** Targeting our courses to key industry clusters such as unmanned systems and engineering,
- **Business Vitality:** Supporting the emergence of the unmanned systems economy by providing students for Gulf Coast State College's Unmanned course,
- **Infrastructure:** Creating a state of the art STEM Lab school that supports the preparation of college ready students capable of pursuing advanced degrees,
- **Entrepreneurship & Innovation:** Fosters the next generation of business entrepreneurs with college level courses that heavily exposed to STEM fields,
- **Quality of Place:** Working with all of the local environmental agencies we will help ensure that the driving force for our tourism, our estuary, continues to improve by monitoring water quality, restoring the scallops, restoring shorelines, bringing back the oysters in West Bay and protecting our Seagrass. The addition of a state of the art STEM school located in Downtown Panama City will enhance the quality of Place for a community in need of economic development.

North Bay Haven Charter School has a proven track record of providing quality education that prepares students for higher educational opportunities. The Labs will be in addition to the current renovations taking place at AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute and will allow for the expansion of the academies so that more students can participate. The new labs will be constructed on the now vacant second floor of the Maritime Academy and will include lab space dedicated to;

- Unmanned systems, college credit courses that lead to licensure to operate unmanned systems,
- Engineering, courses to prepare students for advanced courses in engineering at FSU,
- Business leadership, courses that earn college credit and work closely with STEM related areas,

- Computer Science, introductions to programming which is essential in the manufacturing and robotics fields,
- Virtual Reality Lab, fosters programming skills needed in emerging STEM fields.
- Marine Science, will be located on the first floor and will include wet stations, touch tanks, and specimen tanks,
- Physical Sciences, will be located on the first floor and provide ample space for project based learning.

The labs will provide ample space for project based learning as well as secure storage for the support equipment. The labs will leapfrog current technology and move to tablet based systems linked to large LED screens for curriculum support. Additional meeting space and storage will foster collaboration and support the development of a thriving STEM community with support and mentorship from our local STEM partners.

I. Amount of Funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$4.25 million dollars. AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute is requesting \$1.5 million dollars to supplement the \$3 million we are currently spending on renovations. The estimated budgeted costs will be used to complete current construction and furnish the new labs.

II. Identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program.

AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute will allocate an estimated \$3.5 million in insurance, fund raising dollars and in-kind contributions. \$2.7 million in insurance reimbursements for hurricane damage and \$300,000 in fund-raising dollars dedicated to the renovation of 6 classrooms, a library and food service areas on the ground floor. \$250,000 in-kind personnel resources including but not limited to instructional support and program leadership. \$250,000 will come from the RESTORE Act to renovate the dock used to support the environmental projects.

III. Location of the project or program.

The Maritime Academy is located at 200 East Beach Dr. in downtown Panama City. The newly renovated facility will help spur development of the downtown area badly in need of beautification and infrastructure to attract new businesses in emerging STEM fields.

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 a summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

The Maritime Academy with a strong focus on STEM related fields, will be an educational setting unique to Bay County, Florida. The array of aquatic related fields of study that include a strong component of emerging STEM related fields, highlights Bay County's commitment to our environment and our children. Ensuring that future generations enjoy a vibrant healthy eco-system with exciting emerging career opportunities is a central objective of the Maritime Academy. Our student population is reflective of the overall socio-economic demographics of

Bay County, which has a 28% child poverty rate, which is especially concentrated in our eligibility zone. Expanding access to STEM careers for our students will help prepare them for life-changing opportunities while simultaneously attracting hi-tech development in Bay County and the downtown Panama City area.

Over 900 students attend North Bay Haven Charter Academy every year. All of them are eligible to attend classes at the Maritime Academy. North Bay Haven Charter School has a waiting list of students wanting to attend courses there but their campus has reached maximum capacity. Expansion of the Maritime Academy will allow more students to attend the school of their choice and expand educational opportunities in the downtown area of Panama City. It will allow the Maritime Academy to reach a healthy sustainable scale of economy necessary to operate a STEM high school, thus ensuring it remains an attractant for future development in the immediate area.

The unique aquatic theme, setting and United States Naval Sea Cadet unit demonstrates support for our local military bases which are heavily invested in unmanned systems technology. Our additional focus on environmental service projects and science works towards the restoration of our water shed end enhances the quality of life while exposing our students to the hard sciences in an exciting experiential framework that prepares them for advanced education career tracks available at our local FSU campus. Our Gaetz Aerospace Institute prepares students to articulate to Gulf Coast State College's Unmanned Systems course or to Embry Riddle to complete their studies and prepare them for employment opportunities at Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City and our local airport.

A fully renovated and vibrant Maritime Academy will be an attractant for the development of new housing and hi-tech firms in downtown Panama City and Bay County as a whole. The return on investment is very favorable due to the high percentage of North Bay Haven students that pursue advanced degrees and wide arrange of STEM careers supported by the academy, all directly related to the objectives of the Northwest Florida Forward plan and the Triumph Gulf Coast goals and objectives.

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 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, 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.