

## **TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM**

### **APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc. ("REAP")

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: REAP has operated a successful re-entry transitional program, primarily in Escambia since 2013. To date, REAP has served more than 600 individuals returning from incarceration in state prisons with a success rate of 87%, with less than 13% of its clients recidivating within two years after becoming a REAP client. Recently REAP expanded its program in Santa Rosa county by absorbing the SCORE program which operated a similar re-entry program in Santa Rosa county. Together, the combined programs plan to develop a residential workforce development program designed to meet the "specific and customized needs" of employers located in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park while targeting and addressing the desperately needed training for an at-risk/underserved population.

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: Santa Rosa County, Escambia County, Florida Department of Corrections, University of West Florida, Pensacola State College, George Stone Technical Center, and Locklin Technical College.

### **REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- (i) Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast: \$2,500,000.
- (ii) The amount and identity of other sources of funds: FDOC \$378,000; Santa Rosa County \$300,000; Industrial Park Employers \$250,000; Program Participants \$192,000; Tuition Recovery \$180,000; Santa Rosa Land \$150,000; Escambia County \$100,000; Community support \$ 50,000. Total Other Funding: \$1,600,000.
- (iii) The location of the project or program: A 60 room/120 bed multi-use facility to be constructed on property situated in the Santa Rosa County Industrial Park in East Milton, FL.
- (iv) Summary description of the proposed program:

REAP, working in concert primarily with Santa Rosa County and its other partners, is proposing a transformational program to provide educational and vocational opportunities to “justice involved” individuals in Northwest Florida. The targeted individuals will include persons recently released from Florida State prisons and local county jails, persons in pre-disposition detention for Violation of Probation, and individuals eligible for alternative sentencing programs, such as Vet Court, Drug Court, or Mental Health Court. A multi-purpose residential facility is proposed to be constructed on donated county land located within the Santa Rosa Industrial Park, conveniently located near multiple employers presently experiencing a high demand for a trained workforce. The residential facility will also serve as a classroom facility for workforce training for specific targeted skills. Locklin Technical College and George Stone Technical College will be the primary educational partners providing workforce education and training, with Pensacola State College providing CDL and welding classes and University of West Florida providing post-secondary degree services.

The training programs will be designed to provide high level training resulting in externally validated workforce certificates in areas including construction, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, refrigeration, welding, forklift operation, environmental remediation, and CDL licensing. The skills addressed by this workforce training are currently needed by local employers, and appropriate assessment and vocational aptitude screening will be utilized to maximize the likelihood that the individuals will be trained in the most suitable fields lining up with their interest and aptitude.

The concept of marrying a residential transitional facility with workforce training is somewhat unique, but this program offers several distinct advantages: previously incarcerated individuals comprise a population that is both difficult to employ, typically less educated, and with little or no skills. At the same time, this group comprises an untapped workforce resource, conveniently located, readily accessible, and subject to limited controls. The residential nature of this program will provide the opportunity for concentrated training and education, allowing individual to receive several workforce certificates during his/her transitional period as part of an accelerated training program, thereby increasing the individual’s employability value at program completion. It will be a work-study program which will afford the individual the opportunity to earn a paycheck (and provide some funds to cover the costs of his/her housing and food) while learning specific skills which will result in their eligibility for higher-paying jobs. These educational opportunities for previously incarcerated or “justice-involved” individuals meet the societal need to take long-overdue action to limit the “revolving door cycle”, for the benefit of the individual, his/her family, and taxpayers in general.

The proposed workforce training program will help support other industries that may need to rebuild, enlarge or relocate business to Florida, and will promote economic recovery, diversification and enhancement in the eight disproportionately affected Northwest Florida

counties. It is expected that the workforce education/training program will result in more than 650 externally validated certificates over the first six years of operation.

REAP will partner with University of West Florida to develop outcome measures and program validation.

(v) A summary timeline for the proposed project or program:

January 1, 2020	Notification of Project Funding
April 1, 2020	Completion of Design Phase
June 1, 2020	Completion of Permitting
December 1, 2020	Completion of Construction/Certificate of Occupancy
January 1, 2021	Completion of Recruitment and Employee Training
February 1, 2021	Initial Clients accepted