

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MARCUS D. CHAMBERS

ATTORNEY TO THE BOARD
C. JEFFREY McINNIS, Esq.



BOARD MEMBERS
TIM BRYANT
DEWEY DESTIN
LINDA EVANCHYK
DIANE KELLEY
LAMAR WHITE

Triumph Gulf Coast Board Members and Staff,

On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall as a Category 5 storm in our neighboring county causing damage in excess of \$25.1 billion dollars. The destruction of property extended beyond the property damage that was both felt and observed by our entire nation. Also, there was considerable stress incurred to a local economy that was on the upswing in terms of new construction of residential and commercial facilities that are home to a very important population of Floridians and Americans, the honorable members and families of our military armed services. Due to the high demand that existed prior to this unfortunate natural disaster, several occupational areas that were lacking enough professionals already, now dramatically increased yet another time in terms of need for skilled and certified labor.

An article published by National Public Radio (NPR) a year after the hurricane of October of 2019, provided perspective from Bay County Commission Chairmen, Phillip Griffiths who explained "In Panama City and surrounding communities, crews are busy replacing roofs and working on new construction. But the demand for contractors plus the electricians, plumbers and other building trades far outstrips what's available. Griffiths says friends who are contractors have more work than they can handle. One friend he says is a small time custom builder who might do five to seven projects a year. "He's got 25 on the books," Griffiths says. "I have another friend who might do 100, 125 projects a year, who at one time had 300 on the books."

It is the intent of Okaloosa Technical College, to perform its duty to Okaloosa and neighboring community stakeholders. By way of this letter of intent, we are confirming our commitment submit an application to Triumph Gulf Coast Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund to further our mission of producing the most highly capable and trained professionals in Okaloosa County to fill this large employment gap. As a proud Okaloosa Public School and Technical College for over 45 years, we can assure Triumph Gulf Coast and its stakeholders that our version of a "Fast Track" program will not only be successful in its production of skilled employable personnel but also a model for programs in the state and region.

We consider it an honor and privilege to train our diverse students to meet the needs of a highly valued, respected and deserving community. Our Accelerated Certifications in Construction and Electrical Labor (A.C.C.E.L.) program will offer this accelerated program of study to certify new and existing laborers in Construction, HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical through our existing Building Trades and Construction Design Technology Program. The A.C.C.E.L. program will offer students opportunities to earn OSHA 10, OSHA 30, and CAPE Industry certifications which will serve up to 75 students, supported by the educators and industry experts from Okaloosa Technical College. Alongside our stakeholders, as evidenced in the letter of support, these students will become the highly skilled professional workforce to rebuild Northwest Florida and move our community well beyond the horrible disaster created by Hurricane Michael.

Sincerely,

Marcus Chambers
Superintendent of Okaloosa County Schools

Kelly Hayes
Director of Okaloosa Technical College

ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX-120 LOWERY PLACE S.E.-FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32548
TELEPHONE (850) 833-3100 FAX (850) 833-3436

CARVER HILL ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX-461 W. SCHOOL AVENUE-CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA 32536
TELEPHONE (850) 689-7117 FAX (850) 689-7121

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund

On December 18, 2019, the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., board voted to create a Skilled Labor Recovery Fund to address the need for construction trades workers to aid in the economic recovery of Northwest Florida following Hurricane Michael. The creation of a specialized "Fast Track" training program will deliver up to 220 new CAPE Certified skilled workers to the labor market throughout the eight Triumph Gulf Coast counties.

Technical Colleges/School Boards representing each of the eight Triumph Counties are eligible to apply for an award from this Fund. The program will be funded by up to \$1 million per year for up to 3 years for qualifying CAPE Certifications and up to \$160,000 per year to eligible Technical Colleges/School Boards for recruitment and equipment/supplies.

The following Technical Colleges/School Boards representing each of the eight Triumph Counties are eligible to apply for an award from this Fund:

- Wakulla School Board/Lively Technical College
- Franklin School Board/Lively Technical College
- Gulf School Board/Tom P. Haney Technical Center
- Bay School Board/Tom P. Haney Technical Center
- Walton School Board/Emerald Coast Technical College
- Okaloosa School Board/Okaloosa Technical College
- Santa Rosa School Board/Locklin Technical College
- Escambia School Board/George Stone Technical College

The Program will provide up to \$1 million per year for up to 3 years to produce "Fast Track CAPE Certification Training" (courses determined by the Florida Department of Education) in the following skilled labor categories:

- Carpentry
- Electricians
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Pipefitting (Certification to be approved by Triumph Staff prior to start)

Each Technical College/School Board will be awarded up to \$4500 per completed certification by a RESIDENT of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla or Walton. Up to 20% of students may complete two certifications during the period.

For the 2020 funding cycle, all training must be completed during a six-month period from May 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Delivery of all training must be either through classes offered by technical colleges that serve the eight-county region or through classes offered by private providers that have formal working agreements with those technical colleges. Such training by private providers may include CareerSource or private companies that are service

providers of training being certified. The private provider must be formally approved and monitored by the technical college.

Students eligible to be counted toward the fast track program must be newly enrolled in the industry certification program. Students already enrolled in qualifying classes are not eligible to be counted for this program.

Technical schools participating in the program are eligible for up to \$20,000 per year for expenses incurred to engage a recruiter for the Fast Track classes and course materials and supplies.

Technical colleges may recruit students in neighboring counties if that county's technical college is not providing the same fast track certification program.

To apply, Triumph Gulf Coast requires:

- A letter of intent that
 - provides a description of the proposed project including the location(s) of the proposed project, a description demonstrating how the proposed project or program is needed and will promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties,
 - an estimated range of the number of students to be trained.
- A completed Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund Application form

After program participation is approved by the Triumph Board up to \$20,000 will be released towards recruitment and course material/supplies.

Triumph will provide reimbursement for each verified certificate

- upon evidentiary review of submitted certification once 20% of the estimated number of students to be trained is reached,
- And when a report on the activities and outcomes of the recruiter is provided. The report should include the recruiter's communication and outreach with industry as well as interested program participants.

Funding is available on a first come, first served basis.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application for Funds

Proposal Instructions: The Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Grant Application (this document) must be completed by the entity applying for the grant and signed, as applicable, by either an individual authorized to bind the entity applying for funds, a chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the Application carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed. In addition, please complete all Addendums that may be applicable to the proposed project or program.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. will make awards from available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. may make awards for:

- 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.

Pursuant to Florida Law, Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. will provide priority consideration to Applications for projects or programs that:

- 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.

Additionally, the Board of Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. may provide discretionary priority to consideration of Applications for projects and programs that:

- Are considered transformational for the future of the Northwest Florida region.
- May be consummated quickly and efficiently.
- Promote net-new jobs in the private sector with an income above regional average household income.
- Align with Northwest Florida FORWARD, the regional strategic initiative for Northwest Florida economic transformation.
- Create net-new jobs in targeted industries to include aerospace and defense, financial services/shared services, water transportation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, information technology, manufacturing, and robotics.
- Promote industry cluster impact for unique targeted industries.
- Create net-new jobs with wages above national average wage (*e.g.*, similar to EFI QTI program, measured on graduated scale).
- Are located in Rural Area of Opportunity as defined by the State of Florida (DEO).
- Provide a wider regional impact versus solely local impact.
- Align with other similar programs across the regions for greater regional impact, and not be duplicative of other existing projects or programs.
- Enhance research and innovative technologies in the region.
- Enhance a targeted industry cluster or create a Center of Excellence unique to Northwest Florida.
- Create a unique asset in the region that can be leveraged for regional growth of

targeted industries.

- **Demonstrate long-term financial sustainability following Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. funding.**
- **Leverage funding from other government and private entity sources.**
- **Provide local investment and spending.**
- **Are supported by more than one governmental entity and/or private sector companies, in particular proposed projects or programs supported by more than one county in the region.**
- **Provide clear performance metrics over duration of project or program.**
- **Include deliverables-based payment system dependent upon achievement of interim performance metrics.**
- **Provide capacity building support for regional economic growth.**
- **Are environmentally conscious and business focused.**

Applications will be evaluated and scored based on compliance with the statutory requirements of the Triumph Gulf Coast legislation, including but not limited to the priorities identified therein and the geographic region served by the proposed project or program.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund Application

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Technical Colleges/School Boards representing each of the eight Triumph Counties are eligible to apply for an award from this Fund. The Program will provide up to \$1 million per year for up to 3 years to produce "Fast Track CAPE Certification Training" (courses determined by the Florida Department of Education) in the following skilled labor categories:

- Carpentry
- Electricians
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Pipefitting (Certification to be approved by Triumph Staff prior to start)

To apply, Triumph Gulf Coast requires

- A letter of intent that
 - provides a description of the proposed project including the location(s) of the proposed project, a description demonstrating how the proposed project or program is needed and will promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties,
 - and an estimated range of the number of students to be trained.
- And a completed Hurricane Michael Disaster Recovery Fund Application form

Eligible applicants include:

- Wakulla School Board/Lively Technical College
- Franklin School Board/Lively Technical College
- Gulf School Board/Tom P. Haney Technical Center
- Bay School Board/Tom P. Haney Technical Center
- Walton School Board/Emerald Coast Technical College
- Okaloosa School Board/Okaloosa Technical College
- Santa Rosa School Board/Locklin Technical College
- Escambia School Board/George Stone Technical College

Applications and letters of intent will be reviewed by Staff and then considered for award at the discretion of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board.

Funding is available on a first come, first served basis.

Applicant Information

School Board:

Technical College:

Contact Information:

Primary School Board/District Contact: Marcus Chambers

Title: Superintendent

Mailing Address: 120 Lowery Place S.E., Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Phone: 850-833-3100

Email: chambersm@okaloosaschools.com

Primary Technical College Contact: Kelly Hayes

Title: Director

Mailing Address: 1976 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547

Phone: 850-833-3329

Email: hayesk@okaloosaschools.com

Has the applicant in the past requested or applied for funds for all or part of the proposed project/program?

Yes No

If yes, please provide detailed information concerning the prior request for funding, including:

- the date the request/application for funding was made;
 - the source to which the request/application for funding was made,
 - the results of the request/application for funding, and
 - projected or realized results and/or outcomes from prior funding.
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Eligibility

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. The Skilled Labor Recovery Fund Program is limited to Technical Colleges/School Boards serving these counties.

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.

Grants to the Board of County Commissioners in Bay, Gulf, Franklin, or Wakulla County for projects or programs that aid in the recovery from Hurricane Michael.

Grants to the Board of County Commissioners in Bay, Gulf, Franklin, or Wakulla County to pay up to fifty percent (50%) of the anticipated loss in ad valorem real estate tax revenue as a result in the reduction of property values based on Hurricane Michael.

Priorities

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.

Aid in recovery from Hurricane Michael in Bay, Gulf, Franklin or Wakulla County.

2. Please explain how the proposed project meets the priorities identified above.

This program will help to establish an industry -certified workbase to aid in the areas of need after Hurricane Michael. the porgram will teach skills aligned with the building trades program but will certify students as quickly as possibe in one of the following areas: Carpentry, electrician HVAC, Plumbing or Welding

3. Please explain how the proposed project or program meets the discretionary priorities identified by the Board.

This project will be housed at Okaloosa technical College and will run in a period from May 1 - October31 with a goal of at least one industry certification per student. The students will be recruited and will sign an intent to work in the citical area of need upon completion of the program. Students will also be fiven the opportunigyh to earn OSHA certification, in addition to the industy certifications

Students will be residents of Okaloosa County.

4. Does the Board of County Commissioners for the applicant County listed above, recommend this project or program to Triumph?

Yes No

Okaloosa County has established a policy that it will consider providing letters of recommendation once final Triumph Gulf Coast applications have been submitted. Okaloosa Technical College has presented the project to the Okaloosa County Commission in February 2020 and expect to receive a favorable response. We anticipate a recommendation letter from Okaloosa County to be submitted to Triumph Gulf Coast after the BOCC March meeting.

Approvals and Authority

1. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the entity applying for funding. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc. In addition, please attach any support letters from partners.

Funding and Budget:

Pursuant to Section 288.8017, awards may not be used to finance 100 percent of any project or program.

1. Identify the anticipated range of funding for certs and recruitment/supplies sought from Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.

We anticipate spending \$20,000 in certifications and recruitment/supplies. We will use media outlets, billboards, and social media outlets as our primary recruiting methods. We will work with Career Source Okaloosa Walton to also help recruit potential students. Furthermore, we will contact local industry to find out if they have potential employees who need certification.

2. Does the potential award supplement but not supplant existing funding sources? If yes, describe how the potential award supplements existing funding sources.

Yes No

A. Other Project Funding Sources:

Example Funding Sources (Note: Not an exhaustive list of possible Funding Sources and may include in-kind cost such as salaries and benefits.)

School Board	\$ <u>25000.00</u>
Private Sources	\$ <u>0</u>
Other (e.g., grants, etc.)	\$ <u> </u>
Total Other Funding	\$ <u>25000.00</u>
Total Amount Requested:	\$ <u>357,500</u>
Total Project Amount:	\$ <u>382,5000</u>