

A. Russell Hughes
Superintendent of Schools

Walton

COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

145 Park Street
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850.892.1100
Fax 850.892.1191
www.walton.k12.fl.us

February 21, 2020

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

Walton County School District/Emerald Coast Technical College respectfully submits this letter of intent to apply for funding as provided by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., through the Skilled Labor Recovery Fund to address the need for construction trades workers to aid in the economic recovery of Northwest Florida following Hurricane Michael. This application is for the initial funding cycle: May 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020.

Walton County School District proposes to provide career education and training for a minimum of twenty (20) students/workers in the following construction trades: Electricity (10) and HVAC (10) during the period May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020. Students will be expected to earn a minimum of two (2) appropriate CAPE certifications during this period, for a total of 40 CAPE certifications. Florida Department of Education approved curriculum / classes will be offered on the campus of Emerald Coast Technical College, the district's postsecondary educational institution located at 761 North 20th Street, DeFuniak Springs, Florida. In addition to the general adult population, the project will work at recruiting high school students in grades 11 and 12 for dual enrollment opportunities. Real world skills application will be a major feature of the training.

"The 2019-2020 Regional Demand Occupations List as published through the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Bureau of Labor Market Statistics (LMS) lists the labor market needs of Florida's business community and encourages job training based on those needs." <https://careersourcencfl.com/employers/>, visited 02/20/2020. This list identifies electrician and HVAC technicians for Region 2, Okaloosa and Walton Counties as growing at an annual rate of 1.28% and 1.97% respectively. For the 2019-2020 period, 78 job openings are projected for electricians and 82 job openings are projected for HVAC technicians. This project will work to help address anticipated demand for these trades in the construction sector, thereby helping support economic recovery in the region. The project proposes to submit verification of 40 CAPE industry certifications earned by students during the project period May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020. Industry certification will provide validation of skills to area employers, enhancing employment possibilities for students while helping increase efficiency and effectiveness of the industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of intent to apply along with the completed application for funding to help address this labor market need and to aid in our region's economic recovery.

Respectfully,



A. Russell Hughes
Superintendent of Schools

"Preparing the Whole Child for a Life of Success"

Gail Smith
District 1

Kim Kirby
District 2

Bill Eddins, Jr.
District 3

Marsha Winegarner
District 4

Jason Catalano
District 5

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.

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 participant 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 costbenefit, 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.**

Priority: Generate maximum estimated economic benefits, based on tools and models not generally employed by economic input-output analyses, including costbenefit, 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.

Through implementation of this “Fast Track” training project, economic benefits to the region include quickly increasing the number of certified, well-prepared electricians and HVAC technicians in the general construction sector in the region. The number of electricians needed for Region 2, Okaloosa-Walton is projected at 78 as reported on the 2019-2020 Regional Demand Occupations List, reflecting a growth rate of 1.28%. A minimum of ten well-prepared, credentialed workers who will be able to continue their training as electricians will help meet over 10% of this estimated demand within the first year of the project as the students graduate and enter the workforce.

The number of HVAC technicians needed for Region 2, Okaloosa-Walton is projected at 82 as reported on the 2019-2020 Regional Demand Occupations List, reflecting a growth rate of 1.97%. A minimum of ten well-prepared, credentialed workers who will be able to continue their training as HVAC technicians will help meet over 10% of this estimated demand within the first year of the project.

Priority: Increase household income in the disproportionately affected counties above national average household income.

This “Fast Track” project proposes to move workers’ wages toward the national average household income by providing training to secure wages that are estimated at \$26,416 entry/\$40,123 median for electricians in the region and \$31,990/\$41,683 median for HVAC technicians in the region. Wage growth would be expected to continue to increase as workers gain additional experience in the field.

Priority: Leverage or further enhance key regional assets, including educational institutions, research facilities, and military bases.

The Norwest Florida region is home to excellent educational institutions. Emerald Coast Technical College is the Walton County School District’s only postsecondary educational institution, awarding postsecondary certificates along with industry certification and licensure as appropriate. At no cost to the student or family, district high school students are provided the opportunity to enroll in postsecondary career certificate programs concurrent with their high

school education. Completion of the postsecondary career certificate may then be articulated to state college programs. The electricity and HVAC “Fast Track” programs will offer technical dual enrollment opportunities for high school students and also make available the potential for achieving state college credit for students who complete these certificate programs and elect to enroll in appropriate programs locally or statewide. Along with these continuing education pathways, industry certifications will help students progress along meaningful career pathways.

Priority: Provide outcome measures.

This Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., “Fast Track” project proposes to provide career education along with the opportunity to earn a minimum of two (2) industry recognized certificates per student to a minimum of ten (10) students in Electricity and ten (10) students in HVAC, for a total of 40 industry credentials during the period May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020.

Priority: Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts located within the disproportionately affected counties as of January 1, 2017.

Recruitment efforts for this project will include special efforts to enroll Walton County School District secondary students in grades 11 and 12 into the postsecondary Electricity and HVAC programs at Emerald Coast Technical College and to assist those students who complete these programs with articulation into the region’s state college credit CTE programs as appropriate (Northwest Florida State College, Gulf Coast State College, Chipola College, Pensacola State College, Tallahassee Community College).

Priority: Are recommended by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project or program will be located.

The Walton County Board of County Commissioners has recommended this Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. training project.

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

Discretionary Priority:

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

This Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund "Fast Track" training project proposed to provide career education and appropriate CAPE (Career and Professional Education) certifications in Electricity and HVAC. These programs appear on both the regional and statewide demand occupations lists and include all of the identified counties. The programs will be based on the campus of Emerald Coast Technical College located at 761 North 20th Street, DeFuniak Springs, Walton County. These training programs train students in the current workforce technologies and provide articulation mechanisms for students to continue their education in the state college system. The Electricity and HVAC programs have approved statewide articulation agreements to the Building Construction Technology college credit program offered at state colleges.

Discretionary Priority:

Grants to support programs that provide participant in the disproportionately affected counties with transferable, sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single employer

This project proposes to provide students/workers with skills for the construction sector, specifically in electricity and HVAC. Over 1200 employers are identified in the construction sector industry in Walton County in February, 2020. (www.employflorida.com; site visited 02/20/2020). This industry provides the majority of employment for electricians and HVAC technicians.

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

Yes No

Walton County Board of County Commissioners

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.

Walton County School Board Policy Manual:

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD 2.20

I. The School Board is responsible for the organization and control of the public schools of the District and is empowered to determine the policies necessary for the effective operation and the general improvement of the school system. The School Board is a public corporate entity and may take action only when the Board is meeting in official public session and a quorum is present. The School Board shall operate according to Florida Statutes and State Board of Education rules. Individual members of the School Board have authority to take official action only when sitting as a member of the School Board in public session except when the School Board specifically authorizes the member to act. The School Board shall not be bound in any way by any action on the part of an individual Board member or an employee except when such statement or action is in compliance with the public action of the School Board.

II. The Board shall annually set the salaries of Board Members as required by Florida Statute.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S
LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1001.31, 1001.363, 1001.372(1), 1001.395,
1001.41, 1001.43, 1003.02, F.S.
HISTORY: ADOPTED: 10/02/06
REVISION DATE(S): _____
FORMERLY: BBA

Letters of Support Attached.

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.

For period May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020:

Recruitment /Supplies:	\$ 10,000.00
Projected Certifications:	<u>\$180,000.00</u>
Total anticipated funding sought for period:	<u><u>\$190,000.00</u></u>

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

Triumph funding will provide for an additional instructor in the electricity class and for classes to be provided in summer. This scheduling is not currently available for these programs. In addition to recruitment materials targeted for this project, recruitment counseling and outreach/placement preparation will be made available through these funds.
(If additional space is needed, please attach a Word document with your entire answer.)

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>245,000 (Aug-Oct Instruction, Support, Mgt.)</u>
Private Sources	\$ _____

Other (e.g., grants, etc.) \$ 4,000 (Additional summer support/counseling)

Total Other Funding \$ 249,000

Total Amount Requested: \$ 190,000

Total Project Amount: \$ 439,000

Applicant understands that the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. statute requires that the award contract must include provisions requiring a performance report on the contracted activities, must account for the proper use of funds provided under the contract, and must include provisions for recovery of awards in the event the award was based upon fraudulent information or the awardee is not meeting the performance requirements of the award.


Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that Applicant and any co-Applicants will make books and records and other financial data available to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. as necessary to measure and confirm performance metrics and deliverables.

Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. reserves the right to request additional information from Applicant concerning the proposed project or program.

Yes No



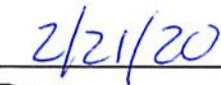
Signature of Authorized Representative of
School Board



Date



Signature of Authorized Representative
of Technical College



Date



Juliet Milam, Chairperson

Michele Burns, Executive Director

February 20, 2020

Mr. A. Russell Hughes, Superintendent
Walton County School District
45 Park Street
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Dear Superintendent Hughes:

Career Source Okaloosa Walton is happy to support your application for the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund – Specialized “Fast Track” training programs. We expect that your initial focus on electricity and HVAC will provide good, quick results. These industry areas offer some of the key foundations for both economic recovery and regional growth. The project’s inclusion of secondary dual enrollment students in the training opportunity will help these students in moving quickly toward careers that will lead to economic self-sufficiency.

We appreciate your efforts in making this training available in the area. The Triumph Gulf Coast Board has been instrumental in helping the region recover from the negative economic impacts of both the 2010 oil spill and the devastation of Hurricane Michael. We are pleased to offer our support for this project that will benefit individuals, families, and industry. Please let us know how we can help to ensure maximum success for this needed “Fast Track” training.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Burns".

Michele Burns – Executive Director
CareerSource Okaloosa Walton

info@careersourceow.com

109 8th Avenue
Shalimar, FL 32579
p: 850-651-2315 | f: 850-651-3165
TTY/TDD: 711

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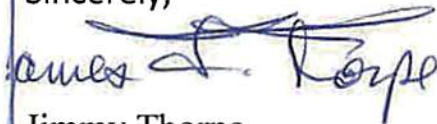
SUPERIOR
Air Conditioning Company
Veteran Owned Business

February 21, 2020

Dear Superintendent Hughes:

A Superior Air Conditioning Company is happy to provide you with this letter of support for your Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund – Fast Track training program application. The need for skilled HVAC technicians continues to grow in the area. Hurricane Michael affected the entire construction industry in the area and the demand for skilled workers has grown even more in the past two years. Our business can benefit from knowing that potential employees/your students have verified their HVAC skills through certification. We are happy that the Triumph Gulf Coast Board is responding to the general needs of the construction industry and to the specific needs for well-trained and certified HVAC technicians in the area. We are looking forward to hearing from you regarding the progress of your “Fast Track” application. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support for activities that will benefit our business and others in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Thorpe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Jimmy Thorpe

CAC#1816167



METROPOWER, INC. | Solutions Powered by People Since 1947

February 21, 2020

Mr. A. Russell Hughes, Superintendent
Walton County School District
145 Park Street
DeFuniak Springs, Florida 32435

Dear Superintendent Hughes:

MetroPower is submitting this letter of support for your Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund – Fast Track training program application. The training you are proposing to provide through this targeted program will help us in meeting our needs for skilled workers. A lack of available skilled electricians can impact many areas of the construction industry and can delay both recovery and potential growth for the entire area.

We are happy that the Triumph Gulf Coast Board is responding to local industry's specific needs. Your participation in helping provide these workers with verification of their skills through certification is a great step forward and will help us in getting needed work done more efficiently and effectively.

Please let us know if we can provide employment listings or information about which particular skills we see needed in the area. We appreciate the good relationship we have enjoyed in the past with the technical college and we look forward to partnering with our support for this "Fast Track" project.

Sincerely,

Steve Cline

850-420-3522