

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: Walton County School District/School Board of Walton County

Proposal Title: Empowering Education and Transforming Economic Opportunities through Triumph

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$3,846,000.00

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$8,099,500.00

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Meeting the K-12 educational needs of an economically diverse community, the Walton County School District serves over ten thousand students through six elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one K-12 school, three alternative learning schools, and two charter schools. One postsecondary institution, Emerald Coast Technical College, provides both adult education and career preparation at the technical college level.

The Walton County School District (WCSD) is committed to excellence in education. Through the rigorous process of district accreditation, all WCSD public schools are accredited by AdvancED (Advancing Excellence in Education), the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The postsecondary school in the district, Emerald Coast Technical College (ECTC) is also accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

The “Walton County Way,” an EPIC commitment to Excellence, Professionalism, Innovation, and Collaboration is reflected in the district’s theme “Progress on Purpose” and evidenced by its ranking as an Academically High-Performing School District for over seven years, demonstrating not only the high expectations held for educating all students, but also the commitment to fiscal responsibility. In the 2017-2018 school year, almost 1300 middle and high school students participated in rigorous industry certification examinations, resulting in a pass rate of 81%. At the postsecondary level, ECTC reported program completion, placement, and licensure rates of 93%, 93%, and 97%, respectively.

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 School District /School Board of Walton County is the grant applicant for this Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. application. The school district brings a history of successful partnerships with area agencies and industry that benefit and support education at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Partners will assist with successful project implementation through their individual missions; e.g., providing students with collateral support to reach their training goals (funding, counseling, job search assistance/matching) and developing employment opportunities. Business and industry will provide paid and unpaid internships and simulated employment experiences along with paid employment to students and feedback and support for program development.

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.

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 longterm 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.

Walton County School District Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Application:
Empowering Education and Transforming Economic Opportunities through Triumph

Executive Summary

The Walton County School District proposes to promote economic recovery, diversify the region's economic opportunities, and enhance the talent available to Walton County and the region through student attainment of industry certifications, intentional instructional design including expansion and scaling of postsecondary career education /dual enrollment opportunities, and innovative healthcare career preparatory training. Expanding student access to additional "on-ramps" leading to employment in those industry sectors that support economic growth and provide a living wage helps speed economic recovery. Through strong K-12 training programs that prepare students for credentials valued by industry, the area can provide a sufficient pool of multi-skilled technicians that can both re-build the economy and also attract new industry to help in recovery and in economic diversification, enhancing the value of Walton County and the entire region. The project's initial focus on meeting the demand for skilled technicians in the targeted industries of healthcare and information technology helps in reinforcing and increasing the capacity of these industries that are vital to the region's growth.

To better prepare students for the changing landscape of industry credentials and the new economy and workforce, students need a foundation that integrates academic rigor, teamwork, and critical thinking skills to better meet those challenges that have not even been identified. Through the innovative CAPE, Jr., strategy, this modified "cradle to career" project offers elementary students strengthened broad underpinnings to make the needed adjustments to later prepare for both careers and postsecondary training. Middle school and high school students will be provided more specific preparation as evidenced through increased attainment of industry certifications and dual enrollment in technical college offerings available through the district. Students with disabilities/ unique abilities will be included in career preparation activities to further expand both their preparation for postsecondary education and careers as well as increasing the pipeline of prepared workers for regional industry. Healthcare sector students will be provided exposure to state of the art training that is both relevant and responsive to the current and developing workforce needs of the region and the state.

The long term positive impacts to Walton County and to the region, in general, are expected to be associated significantly with improved access to high quality career education and training. Increased participation in career dual enrollment will result in continuing college cost savings for families while greater focus on attainment of current industry credentials and licensures will further leverage students' access to higher paying jobs. During the initial three year grant period, it is expected that students will achieve at least 3,081 industry certifications and licensures, with approximately 1,168 of those earned during the third year when the proposed programs are fully operational. Simply maintaining that effort has the potential to result in over 10,000 consequential student certifications earned over a ten year period.

Both high school students and working adults will have access to additional entry points for career advancement within industry clusters, initially with healthcare and information technology. Extending the process to those clusters in the business and architecture/construction clusters is expected to be included within a five-year window. The initial focus on expanding career preparatory curriculum and developing new delivery approaches in healthcare and information technology will increase the output of these training programs to better meet county, regional, and statewide workforce needs, not only in the short term, but also, in the longer term.

Increased access to a multi-skilled labor pool will enhance economic development efforts and help create a more resilient economy. Increased per capita wages will enhance quality of life for residents. With greater initial access to short term technical training, it is also anticipated that more students and workers will elect to advance their careers through articulations to programs within the Florida College System and the State University System.

While the consequential value of the project will last well into the future, this application request reports primarily on the first **three years, from 2020 through 2023**, involved in establishing the structural foundation for long term yield. The benefit return of **3,081** student credentials includes **2,956** secondary and postsecondary digital tools, industry certifications and licensures, and **125** foundational credentials earned by CAPE, Jr. elementary students for the first three years of the project. The anticipated project cost is **\$8,099,500.00**, of which **\$3,846,000.00** is requested to be invested by the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund, **\$1,511,000.00** is expected to be invested by the St. Joe Company, and **\$2,742,500.00** by the Walton County School District, representing a total three year cost of **\$2,628.85/ credential**, approximately **\$1,248.29** attributed to the support of Triumph Gulf Coast.