

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: Northwest Florida State College

Proposal Title: GED Plus

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$793,560

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$2,518,144

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: Northwest Florida State College is an open-door, open-access institution committed to serving all members of the community and infusing local industry with high-quality employees equipped with high-demand, relevant skills. The College provides students with robust academic services to prepare students for coursework and to guide them toward success. As part of Florida’s public system of 28 state and community colleges, Northwest Florida State College offers bachelor’s degree programs, associate degrees, and certificates. The College’s primary service district includes Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The College operates six campuses and centers. In addition to the flagship Niceville Campus, the College operates a joint campus with the University of West Florida at the Fort Walton Beach Campus and four educational centers: Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs, Robert L. F. Sikes Education Center in Crestview, South Walton Center in Santa Rosa Beach, and Hurlburt Field Center on Hurlburt Field. Annual enrollment is 10,022, which includes 8,814 students pursuing college credit and 1,208 students taking non-credit coursework.

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: Florida Department of Education, Chancellor of Career, Technical and Adult Education

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.

Northwest Florida State College's (NWFSC) GED Plus program combines opportunities for educationally underprepared adults to participate in General Education Development (GED) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses with workforce education leading toward in-demand industry certifications. GED Plus is designed using the Integrated Education and Training (IET) approach, which delivers adult education with workforce training in high-demand occupations. The goals of this program are: (1) to equip students for high-skill, high-wage jobs, (2) to increase options for adult education students after program completion, (3) to infuse the local workforce with a highly qualified labor pool, and (4) to expand the pipeline for college-credit programs at the institution.

NWFSC's exemplary reputation for delivering high-quality academic and workforce programming aligns with the strengths needed to implement the GED Plus program with excellence. This program is designed to attract students who are not yet prepared for college-credit coursework. These students will enroll in adult education classes with built-in pathways leading to short-term certificates. GED Plus incentivizes students to enroll in adult education by providing an industry certification at no cost to the student.

GED Plus reflects the College's ongoing commitment to provide opportunity to *all* students who desire to increase their employability. The College is dedicated to providing career pathways to students by targeting high-demand fields that infuse the workforce and add value to the region. This multi-county program will be offered at NWFSC sites in Crestview, DeFuniak Springs and Fort Walton Beach.

The focus of GED Plus is to build a talent pipeline through workforce programming resulting in CAPE-recognized industry certifications by increasing onramps for GED students. Select CAPE-recognized certifications can be applied as credit toward an Associate in Science degree. Students may choose career paths from industries such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and public safety.

GED students will complete the standard registration process required to enter into the adult education program. GED completers will be eligible for participation in GED Plus program. All GED Plus students will attend an orientation during which they will receive detailed information about the program.

Project Partner: The College's project partner is the Florida Department of Education/Chancellor of Career, Technical and Adult Education, under the direction of Henry Mack. This program aligns with Executive Order 19-31, the annual Career and Technical Education audit, and the quality improvement work under way at the Florida Department of Education to advance workforce education within the State. This project will help ensure Florida moves from 24th in the nation of people age 25-64 with an associate of arts degree or higher, or with a high-quality workforce relevant certificate, to number 1 by 2030.

Like many workforce programs, the GED Plus program will require financial support from students and state/federal grants. While CAPE-recognized industry certifications earned by degree-seeking students result in state funding, this program is not eligible for state support due to its non-credit structure. Match for this grant comes from NWFSC's adult education program, funded by the Florida Department of Education.

NWFSC anticipates a pool of 262 GED Plus program eligible students annually. The target for transition of GED completers into an industry-certification program is 90 students per year. The total annual cost of industry certifications for these students is \$141,775.

Program	Format	Contact Hours	Course Length	Projected Annual Enrollment	Cert Cost	Projected Annual Cost
Certified Nursing Assistant	Traditional	40	1-2 weeks	20	\$1,200	\$24,000
AWS Certified Welder – FCAW Plate	Traditional	240	6-8 weeks	10	\$2,500	\$25,000
MSSC Certified Production Technician	Hybrid	140	6-8 weeks	5	\$1,500	\$7,500
911 Public Safety Telecommunicator	Online	242	Self-paced	10	\$200	\$2,000
Certified Ethical Hacker	Online	100	Self-paced	5	\$2,895	\$14,475
CompTIA IT Fundamentals	Online	100	Self-paced	10	\$895	\$8,950
Microsoft Office Specialist	Online	335	Self-paced	15	\$2,495	\$37,425
Certified Medical Administrative Assistant	Online	160	Self-paced	15	\$1,495	\$22,425

Additional program expenses will include one full-time employee — a GED Plus Navigator (\$56,615 inclusive of fringe) who specializes in ensuring positive outcomes for adult education and workforce students. The total annual cost for the GED Plus Program is **\$198,390**.

The GED Plus Navigator will advise eligible students about next steps to enroll in an industry certification and/or appropriate degree-seeking programs. GED Plus students who have successfully completed the GED and a qualifying industry certification who choose to enroll in a degree program at NWFSC will be provided a First-Class Free Scholarship (3 credit hours) to support their continued enrollment in a degree-seeking program. In either program, the student may follow additional educational paths leading toward further industry certifications and academic credentials. For select industry certifications, GED Plus earned certificates may receive up to 15 credit hours toward their program requirements, consistent with Florida’s statewide articulation agreements.

The GED Plus program will prepare both learners entering the workforce for the first time and workers making life transitions with the skills and credentials needed to be employable. This program will benefit employers, employees, students, and regional economies, creating a robust workforce for existing and emerging industries across the region.

The GED Plus program can begin as soon as fall 2020 with approval of funds from Triumph Gulf Coast.

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.

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

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.

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.