



**Re-Entry Alliance
Pensacola, Inc.**

RE-ENTRY ALLIANCE PENSACOLA, INC.

**P.O. Box 13224
(850) 332-6677**

**Pensacola, Florida 32591
www.reapreentry.org**

Vinnie Whibbs, Executive Director

Richard Lynch, Director of Operations

September 20, 2022

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 is a Florida not-for-profit corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida in 2013. REAP's adopted mission is "... to improve the safety and quality of life in Northwest Florida by assisting and enabling individuals returning from incarceration to be self-sufficient, crime-free, and productive citizens and neighbors." Our basic philosophy is to utilize alternative evidence-based community programs to achieve a lower rate of recidivism resulting in successful re-entries. We will also be providing pre-trial diversion programs and sentencing alternatives which have an impact on lowering the costs of incarceration. To date, REAP has served more than 1250 individuals returning from incarceration with a success rate of 91%, with less than 9% of its clients recidivating within two years after becoming a REAP client.

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Vince Whibbs, Jr.

Title: Executive Director, REAP

Mailing Address: 1000 West Blount Street, Pensacola, FL 32501

Telephone Number: 850-324-6667 (cell). 850-332-6677(Office)

E-mail Address: vinniewhibbs@reapreentry.org

Website: www.reapreentry.org

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, Florida Department of Corrections, University of West Florida, Pensacola State College, George Stone Technical Center, Locklin Technical College, and Avant Training Resources at Jolene Avant Center.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- (i) Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast: \$3,000,000.
- (ii) The amount and identity of other sources of funds: FDOC \$378,000; Escambia County \$300,000; Program Participants \$192,000; Tuition Recovery \$180,000; Community support \$ 50,000. Total Other Funding: \$1,100,000.
- (iii) The location of the project or program: A 40 room/80 residential facility to be purchased on property situated in Escambia County Industrial Park in East Milton, FL.
- (iv) Summary description of the proposed program:

REAP, working in concert primarily with Escambia County and its other partners, is proposing a transformational workforce development program to provide workforce training, 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.

The proposed residential facility will have a minimum of 40 individual units available, to provide living space for 80 residents, with a projected total purchase price of \$3,000,000 including both closing costs and \$800,000 for renovations. The facility will also serve as a transportation hub to transport residents for workforce education and training for specific targeted skills. The students will be transported to Pensacola State College, George Stone Technical College, Locklin Technical College, Environmental Career Worker Training Program at the Jolene Avant Center, and University of West Florida.

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, basic construction, food service, and CDL licensing. The skills addressed by this workforce training are currently needed by local employers. Appropriate assessment and vocational aptitude screening will be utilized to maximize the likelihood that the individuals will be trained in the most suitable fields aligned with their individual interest and aptitude.

The concept of combining a residential transitional facility with workforce training is 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 each 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 workforce enhancement in the eight disproportionately affected Northwest Florida counties. It is expected that the workforce education/training program will result in more than 800 externally validated certificates over the first two years of operation, with similar amounts in the succeeding years.

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, 2023:	Notification of Project Funding
April 1, 2023:	Completion of Acquisition and Design Phase
June 1, 2023:	Completion of Permitting
October 1, 2023:	Completion of Construction/Certificate of Occupancy
December 1, 2023:	Completion of Recruitment and Employee Training
January 1, 2024:	Initial Clients accepted
May 1, 2024:	Initial graduates with certificates issued.

If you have any questions, please call me personally.

Sincerely,



Vince Whibbs, Jr.

Executive Director, REAP

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 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.