

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: The University of West Florida
Proposal Title: Expanding and Enhancing Healthcare Programs at the University of West Florida
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$4,867,000
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$11,885,843

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

The University of West Florida is a regional comprehensive public university located in Pensacola, FL. The University is a member of the State University System of Florida, with an enrollment of over 13,000 students.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: David Bellar
Title: Dean and Professor, Usha Kundu, MD College of Health
Mailing Address: 11000 University Pkwy
City: Pensacola State: FL Zip Code: 32514
Telephone Number: (850) 462-5762
Email Address: dbellar@uwf.edu
Website: <https://uwf.edu/ukcoh/>

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Baptist Healthcare

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 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.

Expanding and Enhancing Healthcare Programs at the University of West Florida

Executive Summary

i) The amount of funding being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast

We are requesting a total amount of \$4,867,000 from Triumph Gulf Coast to support nursing students in existing and new programs, as well as to enhance the education of students in the Medical Laboratory Science program and to develop a new Bachelor's program in Respiratory Therapy.

ii) The amount and identify of other source of funds for the proposed project or program

The University of West Florida will commit funds acquired from a recent state allocation to support Nursing education programs. The University received recurring funds to hire additional faculty to support existing and new nursing programs. Recurring funds were also received for Nursing scholarships and to purchase educational equipment.

iii) The location of the project or program

The program will be located in 3 buildings on the University of West Florida's main Pensacola campus. The Nursing programs and clinical education of the Respiratory Therapy students will be located in Building 37. This building will also be the location for all proposed renovations for the project. The Medical Laboratory Sciences program is located in Building 58, and will be the location for most laboratory science equipment purchases. Finally, the Respiratory Therapy faculty and administrative offices will be located in Building 38. A link to the campus map for the University of West Florida can be found [here](#).

iv) Summary description of the of the proposed program

The proposed program will expand the capacity for and increase the preparation and skills of healthcare students at the University of West Florida. Workforce data prepared by the UWF Haas Center suggests that in the next 5 years, there will be regional growth rate increases of 7.5% for Medical Lab Technicians, 23% in Nursing, and 5% in Respiratory Therapy. Currently, the number of job postings far exceeds the number of educational completions in the region for these occupations. This data (source: Lightcast) is reinforced by discussion at the December 2022 Usha Kundu, MD College of Health Advisory Board. At this meeting, C-level administrators and Human Resource Directors from health care providers in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties shared that these were priority areas of focus for UWF.

The proposed program will enhance the education and preparation of the existing students in our Medical Laboratory Science and entry-level Nursing programs. The program is critical as nursing students need to prepare for the Next Generation NCLEX examination for licensure in the State of Florida. Medical Laboratory Science students need hands-on training with equipment found in hospitals and private labs. Further, the program will assist with starting two

new nursing programs at UWF. One will be an evening/weekend bachelor's degree that will allow current employees of regional healthcare providers access to nursing education outside of regular business hours. The other will be a direct entry Master's degree that will enable students who have a bachelor's in science to become a registered nurse. The two programs will enhance the number of new RN's that UWF can contribute to the workforce. Two additional enhancements for Nursing are planned within the project period. First, the University will create a Living, Learning Community (LLC) for Nursing. The LLC will provide enhanced educational opportunities for nursing students and earlier access to NCLEX preparation materials. Students in the LLC will also have earlier exposure to our healthcare partners and exposure to clinical settings. Second, UWF will begin a direct admission process for the existing Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. This enhancement is designed to recruit and retain more high-performing students in the immediate area by guaranteeing them placement in the nursing program rather than making them enter the University as a pre-nursing major. Finally, this program will allow UWF to prepare for and start a bachelor's degree in Respiratory Therapy. There are no existing programs in either Escambia or Santa Rosa counties. Therefore this program will make an immediate impact.

To accomplish these goals, the University of West Florida will commit recurring funds acquired from the state to hire new nursing faculty and purchase educational technology to support the existing and new Nursing programs. Funds are requested from Triumph Gulf coast to assist with renovations to Building 37 (Nursing) that would increase the Nursing clinical and simulation spaces by over 1500 sq feet. Additionally, requested funds would be used to improve the simulation and laboratory equipment for the MLS and nursing student education, and finally, to help with the start-up costs for a Respiratory therapy program. UWF is committed to the sustainability of this program and will budget for the recurring costs of the program beyond the project period.

v) A summary timeline for the proposed project or program.

Expanding and Enhancing Health Care Programs at the University of West Florida								
Activity	2023 (2nd Half)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Nursing Students Prepare for Next Generation NCLEX exam	[Blue bar spanning 2023 (2nd Half) to 2028]							
Evening/Weekend Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program	[Blue bar spanning 2023 (2nd Half) to 2028]							
Direct Entry Master's Program	[Blue bar spanning 2023 (2nd Half) to 2028]							
Enhanced Medical Laboratory Scientist Education	[Blue bar spanning 2023 (2nd Half) to 2028]							
Direct Admit Process for Bachelors of Science in Nursing				[Blue bar spanning 2025 to 2028]				
Nursing Program Living Learning Community				[Blue bar spanning 2025 to 2028]				
Bachelor's Degree in Respiratory Therapy						[Blue bar spanning 2026 to 2028]		
Yearly Expenses	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Totals	
University of West Florida	947,168	1,214,335	1,214,335	1,214,335	1,214,335	1,214,335	7,018,843	
Triumph Gulf Coast	1,027,000	1,630,000	1,721,000	319,000	85,000	85,000	4,867,000	