

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: Destin High School
Proposal Title: Education and Career Academy Expansion
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$10,000,000
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$26,000,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: Destin High School (DHS) is a public charter high school and is the first high school in Destin Florida. DHS seeks to build strong partnerships with our community to provide specialized programs and career academies which offer relevant industry certifications and training to the students of DHS for the economic benefit of the Northwest Florida region.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Drew Palmer

Title: Board Vice President

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State:FL

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Website: <https://www.destinhighschool.org/>

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

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.

(i) **Amount of funds being sought from Triumph Gulf Coast;**
\$10,000,000

(ii) **Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program;**
Okaloosa County Issued Bonds, Private Donations

(iii) Location of the project or program;

4325 Commons Dr W, Destin FL 32541

(iv) Description of the proposed program, including how the program will be transformational and promote economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties,

Prior to the 2021-2022 school year Destin did not have a high school. Students in Destin would start their academic life at Destin Elementary School, proceed to Destin Middle School then be dispersed between four different local high schools, all about a 30-minute drive across multiple bridges. This scattering of the youth of Destin to various other areas not only caused hardship with those students who had grown up together who were then being separated, but it also caused Destin to lose some of its identity. Destin students would be enrolled in Fort Walton Beach High School, Choctaw High School, South Walton High School and Niceville High School. Each of these schools have rich and deep connections to the culture of the area and the students of Destin felt like (and were sometimes treated as) the “others”. The community feel of Destin ultimately suffered due to the lack of a high school of their own.

On August 10th 2021, Destin High School welcomed its first students to the campus which had been purchased and renovated through private donations and the governing board was also able to secure bond funding which was privately underwritten and issued by Okaloosa County. The energy from day one was amazing as 300 students in grades 9-11 took a chance on a new school, giving up the brighter lights of the bigger schools and working together to build a legacy for our community. The next school year saw our first senior class who will be graduating as the first graduates of Destin High School on May 26th 2023. Things have moved so fast that the school is now out of space and is expanding the campus to reach more students.

The expansion of the Destin High School campus will allow for the school to serve a greater number of students. In 2021-2022 Destin High School enrolled 300 students. The current enrollment (2022-2023) is 475, 2023-2024 enrollment is projected to be 625 and 2024-2025 is projected to be ~800 students with future growth possible as the population of Destin continues to grow. Educating the youth of Destin in Destin with a goal of building the skills of the local workforce will be transformational for our area.

Each student will have the opportunity to participate in career academies including the current offerings of Commercial Fishing, Culinary, Cyber Security, Business Leadership and the intention is to seek to bring more programs to the school that will offer career certifications in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Drone Program among others. Ultimately when the space and facility issues are solved by this project it is the intention to require at least one certification program per student in the field of their choice and many students will choose to do more certifications as the offerings expand. Bringing these skills to the local economy will allow for students to serve in the already bustling service and defense industries of the local area and will serve to help to build more skills for the economy of the future; Destin High School is currently considering Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, a Drone Program and will expand as other opportunities become available. The intent is for Destin High School to continually evaluate the programs being offered while partnering with local industry to ensure that the programs that are offered are sought after in the local economy and to demonstrate that students are prepared to meet the demands of the workforce of the future as we

identify, target and initiate new programs where Destin High School can demonstrate agility to be an early mover to adopt those programs to meet industry and economic demands in the Northwest Florida region.

With the help of the Triumph Gulf Coast grant, Destin High School intends to provide more classroom space to be able to educate more students and bring more programs to the school. Destin High School has a goal of earning over 4000 industry certifications over the next eight years and hopes to beat that goal by a wide margin. The funds will also be used for program and curriculum costs associated with the identified career academy programs.

(v) **Summary timeline for the proposed project or program.**

The project started when the property was purchased in February 2021 with initial renovations completed in July 2021 Phase 2 of the project started in July 2022 with completion of a new conditioning building in December 2022. Phase 3 started in December 2022 - with expected full completion in June 2024.

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.

Updated 5/1/18