

## **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: Warrington Preparatory Academy / Charter Schools USA  
Proposal Title: Rocketing to the Future: Phase 1  
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$5,500,000  
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$7,890,000

### **Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:**

Warrington Preparatory Academy (managed by Charter Schools USA by Renaissance Charter Schools) will serve zoned students in grades 6-8 from the Warrington Community of Escambia County. There are long term plans to move to a K-8, then a K-12 model after three years as a middle school. The school itself was in DA Status for 10 years and the Escambia County School District was directed by the FLDOE to close or turn the school over to a third party. We are opening the school to zoned students in grades 6-8 in August 2023 with potential expansion to K-8 (choice), then K-12 written within the charter. FLDOE statistics show Warrington Prep Academy qualifies as a school with low economic status as a result of the Direct Certification Process.

### **Contact Information**

Primary Contact: **Tracey Jones Saxon**  
Title: **Director of School Support/Florida State Team**  
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Website: **www.charterschoolsusa.com**

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

**Dr. Eddie Ruiz, State Superintendent/CSUSA Florida**  
**Mr. Lane Morris, Principal, Manatee Charter School**

### **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.

## **Rocketing to the Future**

(i)/(iii) We are seeking \$5.5 million in funds to create a robust technology program at Warrington Preparatory Academy/Escambia County that provides students with a strong base of IT knowledge which allows them to pursue future employment in dependent fields such as Aviation, Manufacturing, Health Sciences, The Arts and all career fields within those subsets.

(ii)/(iii) We are prepared to make a 50% match, however we are asking for consideration to reduce that to a 40% match based on our need to provide a great deal of marketing to the community zoned to our school about the programs and opportunities that we offer to better the greater Warrington Area. Our match will come primarily from teacher salaries and select infrastructure projects needed to prepare and renovate the student spaces needed for our Workforce Readiness Programs. The physical plant is in need of a security upgrade for the safety of not only the students, but for the new and valuable technology they will be working with as they work through the program. In addition, our students are very low academically (26% proficient English/Language Arts, 26% proficient Math) and we will need to provide additional resources in order to meet their current instructional level. Since our proposed program is outcome based, we would ask for consideration in our proposed 40% match of funds. The school is currently 100% FRL and the community is economically depressed. The requested funding would provide dedicated technology, equipment, supplies, student workstations, teacher training, and industry certification testing and curriculum.

(iv) The suppressed reading level is also the rationale for introducing Elementary-Targeted certifications during the initial phase so that students will find success immediately, thus creating the ability to move those initial certifications down into the elementary school when that phase begins and replacing the middle school program with a more robust offering driven by student interest and choice once they acquire the basic tools needed to apply into any field of study. We anticipate students needing to take certifications tests multiple times until we shift the ability of students to read and understand materials.

(iv) In creating our new school, we will be making all staff members (teachers, administrators, custodians, support staff, cafeteria workers, etc.) complete Industry Certifications so that the initial IT core certs can become infused immediately into the academic structure. We will hire local community residents to serve in non-certified roles within the school and they will also benefit from the additional workforce skills. This is another main drive of our request for the reduced match, as we will need to educate community members on their potential for employment and share with them the opportunities provided for their students and themselves.

It is our future goal that we will offer a robust Industry Certification Program for adults within the community as we have partnered with Parent University to be a host site for their Pensacola Campus. While making the immediate preparations for managing the school we have already hired local Escambians to assist with documenting the transformation of the building, and they are eager to begin working on Industry Certification in Adobe Photoshop since they will be connected to the school through their work, despite the fact that their employment will be sporadic in this aspect of the project.

As stated, we are operating during the first three years (Grades 6-8) introducing students to the Cyber-Citizenship and Cyber-Safety Certifications which will serve as a basis for our students as they progress through the identified certifications that will provide them the IT knowledge to then self-select coursework that will allow them to pursue a chosen field or accomplish several different skill sets based on their interest.

Our staff will receive training to provide additional support to Military Families as we seek to obtain Purple Star School status.

We will employ the use of student VR stations (Oculus 2 Virtual Reality Bundle) paired with teacher-led direct instruction so that students will not only learn the requisite knowledge for the actual subject matter with support, but they will be prepared to enter college and technical programs beyond their K-12 education. In a community where students have expressed dreams to have a career in a chosen field but have not been able to articulate how they would achieve the skills needed for the actual job, we are confident that this program would show them the way to learn, while still in the K-12 environment, what is actually needed to enter the workforce in that chosen field. Students will also have actual certified experiences and certifications to present when exploring those options.

(v) We are seeking \$5.5 Million Dollars to begin the certification program, but it is our long range plan to come back to the Triumph Gulf Coast Grant to ask for additional funding once we are able to expand our programs into more career fields.

### **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;

X

**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.

- X** **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.

- X** **Provide outcome measures.**

- X** **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.