

## **PROPOSED POLICIES AND PRIORITIES PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY TRIUMPH GULF COAST BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Projects that are in a Federal Qualified Opportunity Zone (QOZ) as defined by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) or a designated State of Florida Rural Area of Economic Opportunity Zone (RAO) in the eight disproportionately affected counties will be described in the Score Sheet so that applicant and public will be made aware that these economic development tools are available.
- All applications that have met eligibility requirements will be presented to the Board of Directors for a vote no less than 120 days post submission absent a good cause or a request by the applicant. If an application has not been approved within this time frame staff promptly notify both the Board and the applicant of any deficiencies in their application which may have caused them to be delayed or denied.
- Counties which have not met the statutory requirement, will receive a preference until they get to their statutory amount. Staff will prioritize qualified projects in these areas and prepare them for a Board vote.
- Funding for regional projects of significance should not be counted against the statutory minimum of any participating county unless the project is principally located in that County. This does not mean that a neighboring county cannot support a regional project. Only that the support will not count against that counties statutory minimum.

### **PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND FURTHER ACTION**

- Educational hospitality projects will be evaluated in the same manner as other education projects if they meet the minimum statutory requirements of a TGC award. Tourism is a key asset to our region and their ability to enhance this region is very important. (I plan to ask legislators for support. Last board did not like these, but we are a new board).
- Experience has shown us that the resources and needs of the Triumph counties differs significantly across the region. In order to assist the communities with fewer economic development resources, TGC staff will host quarterly public workshops with the four least populated disproportionately affected counties to assist the Counties with identifying and applying for Triumph grant opportunities.
- Many things have changed since Triumph originally started—hurricanes Michael, and Sally, the pandemic, inflation, etc. In order to assist the board and its

constituent counties, Triumph should commission a third-party economic study of the eight affected counties. This study will include current strengths and weaknesses of each county, a list of the strategic economic development priorities in the region and any suggestions for ways to strengthen Triumph's impact.