

202 GCSC Gulf Regional Training Center for Emergency Communications, Geospatial Intelligence, & Unmanned Vehicles in Emergency Response

Amended Economic Analysis, Impact and Score (November 2023)

The October 2023 revision of the GCSC proposal seeks \$4,649,001 in TGC funding over a six-year period to deliver at least 763 industry certifications. This represents a downward shift in the ask of \$498,749 from the original amount approved by the Triumph Board, as memorialized in the grant award agreement of August 22, 2020. Because outcome metrics are unchanged, the original cost of \$6,677 per cert awarded is now reduced to \$6,093. The originally approved total project cost was \$10,025,035, with Triumph providing 51.1 percent of the total. The new total project cost is \$6,130,207, with Triumph proposed to provide 75.8 percent of total project costs. The new lower total project spending is due to a reduction in match from a private sector partner,

The project will also update and keep current the emergency response teams across the eight disproportionately affected counties.

The new cost of \$6,093 per cert awarded continues to be high by Triumph standards. However, the Triumph statute clearly envisioned the possibility of funding “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.” While GCSC is not a local government, the potential availability of the proposed equipment to be purchased by GCSC to support the program may have value for delivering the envisioned emergency services as well as the training that is described.

A 2019 study by the MITRE Corporation uses several alternative methods to assess the value of equipment delivered using FEMA funding. The present project shares some of those characteristics. Subject matter experts assessed the monetary value of these investments when measured against standards of reduced risk of lives lost, of injuries, of time without necessities, or property damages, and of business losses, as well as quality of life. After weighting these categories, the study found an overall relative change in benefits of 5.4 percent from the model baseline in an application to 16 Florida counties, but that variance in the valuation of components driving this change was large and meant that a positive ROI could not be definitively associated with the FEMA spending. MITRE found similarly inconclusive results in applying revealed preference techniques and in applying breakeven analysis to examine the benefits to emergency preparedness spending.

The high cost per cert drives a relatively modest estimated increment to regional family incomes of \$13.70 per dollar of Triumph award. For these reasons, staff continue to score the project as a “B.”