

## **Application Score Sheet**

Proposed Project: Franklin County, Airport Education Facility (#360)

Proposed Project/Program County:

Board of County Commission Support:

Rural County:

Opportunity Zone:

Total Projected Project Cost: \$265,000

Match Provided: \$15,000

Triumph Funds Requested: \$250,000

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$250,000

Score: A

ROI: \$25.1 in increased labor income per Triumph dollar

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### **Economic Analysis, Impact and Score**

Franklin County, in partnership with Haney Technical College, submitted a request for \$250,000 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding to establish an aviation maintenance educational program at Hangar 5, Apalachicola Regional Airport. The total project cost is anticipated at \$265,000, with Triumph providing approximately 79% of the required funds, and Franklin County committing \$15,000 in local match, including funds for facility capital improvements. Haney Technical College will also contribute substantially through hiring instructors and supplying instructional materials, further enhancing the project's leveraged impact.

Triumph Gulf Coast funds will be allocated to essential facility improvements to ensure the site is suitable for high-quality technical education. Renovations include demolition of interior walls, replacing flooring, repainting the interior, and upgrading building systems such as the HVAC. Improvements will also be made to parking and site access, including paving new parking areas, installing a secure entry gate, and enhancing exterior signage. These investments will convert an existing hangar into a purpose-built training environment, supporting both classroom and hands-on instruction for aspiring aviation mechanics.

The project's benefits are multi-faceted and strongly align with Triumph Gulf Coast's priorities. Franklin County's economy, historically dependent on the seafood industry, has faced severe declines and needs both diversification and access to new, well-paying jobs. Establishing an aviation maintenance training center provides direct pathways to FAA-authorized Airframe, Powerplant, and Avionics certifications—careers with starting salaries well above the county average and strong mid-career earning potential (\$50,000–\$60,000 entry, \$80,000–\$100,000 mid-career). The training program will create new opportunities for students from Franklin and neighboring, underserved areas, leveraging the successful Haney model, which currently operates at capacity. Program graduates will not only meet regional demand for aviation mechanics in the growing aerospace sector but will catalyze upward mobility and economic

transformation in this rural community. Additionally, the partnership with the school district's Tango Flight program, where high school students build an aircraft for credit, will help foster an early pipeline of talent into the new program.

Based on the project narrative, the program commits to certifying 25 new Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) mechanics within five years. With Triumph contributing \$250,000 toward the facility refurbishment, the cost per certification to Triumph Gulf Coast is \$10,000. Because of the large number of seat hours needed per student (and the associated instructional cost) and the relatively high wages associated with this credential, this is an attractive cost per cert. This investment in each new certification enables both immediate access to high-wage careers and the long-term economic resilience of Franklin County. The expected ROI is \$25.1 in increased labor income per Triumph dollar. For these reasons, and given the project's regionally significant, transformative impact, staff score this program as an "A" in terms of economic impact.

### **Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)**

Franklin County is requesting a \$250,000 Triumph grant to establish an aviation maintenance and powerplant (A&P) training program at the Apalachicola Regional Airport in partnership with Haney Technical College. The funds will be used to renovate Hanger 5 into training and lab space and make upgrades to the parking lot and apron areas.

The program will provide certifications in Airframe, Powerplant, and Integrated Avionics Devices (IAD). The facility will be renovated to accommodate classrooms and training space including a hangar that functions as the 'lab'. The grant will result in 25 FAA certifications over five years.

The program addresses the decline of the seafood industry by creating an opportunity for high-paying aviation jobs, as well as supporting long-term regional economic diversification. The certifications earned will support existing workforce needs and the region's growing aerospace industry sector. This represents not only diversification of the workforce, but enhances the economy in the area as these jobs have much higher starting salaries than the predominant service industry jobs available today.

This grant will establish an extension of the existing Aviation program at Haney Technical College. Haney Technical College currently has more applicants than capacity and seeks to expand. Franklin County has available infrastructure, community support and limited post secondary training options.

The program will focus on serving the region's underserved rural communities. Target student recruitment is from a large area, with potentially longer drive times, than other A&P programs but residents from these areas would need to drive significant distances to attend most secondary training programs. This satellite location is a fast and viable way to expand to meet employer demand and may relieve some backlog of applicants at the Haney Panama City campus.

The Franklin School District recently began a new aviation program, Tango Flight. High School students will construct a Vans RV12 experimental aircraft with the possibility to earn approximately a semester's credit in the Haney A&P program.

The grant request leverages existing resources at the Apalachicola Regional Airport, has clear and measurable outcome measures and has strong support from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Apalachicola Airport Operations and Economic Development Board, and the school district.

Project #, name

Apalachicola Airport/Haney Tech Satellite Campus

Budget

\$ 265,000.00

Estimated construction start date if applicable

October 15, 2025

Estimated education component start date if applicable

	Renovations	Total
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Please change year # to actual year

Project Total		
Calendar Year 2025	126,000.00	126,000.00
Calendar Year 2026	139,000.00	139,000.00
Project Total	265,000.00	265,000.00

Triumph		
Calendar Year 2025	111,000.00	111,000.00
Calendar Year 2026	139,000.00	139,000.00
Triumph Total	250,000.00	250,000.00

Grantee		
Calendar Year 2025	15,000.00	15,000.00
Calendar Year 2026		-
Grantee Total	15,000.00	15,000.00