

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: Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc.

Proposal Title: BayAI Ignite: Empowering Bay Haven Students for AI-Driven Computer Science Careers

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$10,500,000.00

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$17,750,000.00

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc. is a financially stable non-profit organization (recent Triple B bond rating) operating five high-performing public charter schools in Bay County, FL (two elementary, two middle schools, and one high school). Serving over 3,300 students in K-12, our schools consistently earn “A” ratings and School of Excellence commendations.

Contact Information

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

Partners	Roles
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) National	Central K-12 curriculum provider
The AI Education Project (aiEDU)	Free AI Literacy framework aligned with Florida AI K-12 Task Force
Florida State University Panama City ASCENT	Career academy training support for professional learning and student success
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Gaetz Aerospace Career Academy concurrent/dual enrollment delivering FAA certifications, aviation maintenance, UAS, engineering, and college credit at Bay Haven Charter School and North Bay Haven Career Academy
Magic School AI, Microsoft, Google	AI and productivity platforms
Bay County Board of County	Alignment with local economic recovery

Commissioners	priorities (formal recommendation anticipated)
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REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc. seeks \$10,500, 000.00 in Triumph Gulf Coast funding to launch BayAI Ignite, a transformational K-12 program delivering full implementation of Florida’s 2024 State Academic Standards for Computer Science and the Florida AI in K-12 Education Task force recommendations through a PLTW-centered curriculum, augmented by the Gaetz Aerospace Career Academy partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, serving over 3,300 students in Bay County. The 9-year project cost is approximately \$17,750,000.00, with Triumph funding the critical 2026-2030 startup phase; long-term sustainability will be achieved via existing per-pupil FEFP revenue (>\$26M annually), CAP Workforce Education Grant awards (currently funded and reapplied for annually), Title II allocation, and other funds available to high-performing charters.

Fully aligned with Florida’s new computer science standards and AI Task Force emphasis on ethical literacy and bias/privacy education, Bay AI Ignite uses Project Lead The Way as the core framework (PLTW Launch K-5, Gateway 6-8, Engineering/CS 9-12), enhanced by:

- **The AI Education Project (aiEDU)** – Free lessons on ethical AI, bias, and generative AI
- **Magic School AI** – Personalized instruction designed for learning
- **Microsoft and Google Suites** – For collaboration and workforce readiness
- **FSU Panama City ASCENT** – For PLTW/AI teacher certification
- **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Gaetz Aerospace Career Academy** – Concurrent/dual enrollment producing FAA certifications, aviation maintenance, UAS, engineering pathways, and college credit

The program will triple certification rates to >50% (target 15,000 + credentials, including PLTW capstones, AI certifications, FAA/ERAU aviation certs, Microsoft/Google badges and certifications, and CompTIA), close the digital divide, and deliver \$73 in additional household income per Triumph dollar spent. Outcomes include ≥70% postsecondary STEM enrollment and ≥90% teacher retention in computer science/STEM.

This investment directly supports Florida’s CS/AI mandates, leverages the Gaetz Aerospace Career Academy for immediate aerospace workforce pipelines (Tyndall AFB recovery), and positions Bay Haven as a rural model statewide.

Summary Timeline for the Proposed Project/Program:

- **2025-2026 (Planning Year):** Secure funding; hire key personnel (CTE Director, AI Specialists); complete PLTW, aiEDU, and FSU ASCENT teacher certification; procure initial devices and Magic School AI licenses; develop acceptable use policy and equity audit.
- **2026-2027 School Year:** Pilot PLTW Launch/Gateway and Gaetz Aerospace courses; full rollout of AI literacy and Magic School AI in core subjects; convert media centers and select classrooms to TECH Hubs; launch afterschool/summer camps.

- 2027-2030: Scale to all grades/schools; achieve first 8,000+ certifications; periodic equipment refreshes; annual CAP Workforce and Title funding integration.
- 2031-2034: Full charter absorption; sustain 2,000+ annual certifications; program fully self-funded via FEFP, CAP Workforce grants, and other recurring sources

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 long-term 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.