

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: Onetera Nelson
Proposal Title: Melt-Blown Fabric Manufacturing Facility
Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$45,264,000 Total: 92%
Estimated Project Cost: \$49,200,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: First Veteran Melt-Blown Fabric, Inc., led by U.S. veteran Onetera Nelson, intends to produce high-quality, compliant melt-blown fabrics to strengthen domestic supply chains, create high-wage jobs, and drive advanced manufacturing in Northwest Florida.

Contact Information Primary

Contact: Cell
Title: President/CEO
Mailing Address: 445 Raven LN City:
Panama City
Telephone Number: 321-698-2381
Email Address: Oneteraa@gmail.com State: FL Zip Code: 32404
Website: Pending

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

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.

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 longterm 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.

Triumph Gulf Coast Grant Project Narrative

Applicant: First Veteran Melt-Blown Fabric, Inc.
Project: Melt-Blown Fabric Manufacturing Facility
Location: Northwest Florida (Bay County)
Funding Requested: \$45,264,000 (92% of total)
Company / Other Match: \$3,936,000 (8% of total)
Total Project Cost: \$49,200,000

Project Overview

First Veteran Melt-Blown Fabric, Inc. led by U.S. veteran Onetera Nelson, with experience in Public Health, Homeland Security, and leadership proposes the development of a 66,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing facility for melt-blown nonwoven fabric in Northwest Florida. Melt-blown fabric is a critical component in N95 respirators, surgical masks, and industrial filtration systems. Domestic production remains limited due to manufacturing gaps, high capital costs, and regulatory compliance challenges. Investing in this facility will strengthen the U.S. supply chain for public health and homeland security, while producing 20,000 tons of melt-blown fabric annually for medical, industrial, and filtration applications will address a bottle neck. The project directly addresses domestic supply vulnerabilities and stimulates regional economic growth. The facility will create over 100+ high-wage jobs with an average annual salary of \$65,000, well above Bay County's average wage of \$51,000, representing a significant economic uplift for the community and enhancing national preparedness for future public health and security challenges.

Funding Sources

Triumph Gulf Coast funds will primarily support facility construction and production equipment, while company/other sources fund planning, workforce development, and supplemental project support.

Transformational Impact

The project is transformational in multiple ways:

1. Economic Recovery:

- Creates high-wage jobs, strengthens local manufacturing, and generates an estimated \$90M+ in annual regional economic activity through direct operations, supplier networks, and workforce participation.

2. Economic Diversification:

- Northwest Florida's economy has historically been concentrated on tourism, military installations, and service industries. This project establishes a critical manufacturing sector focused on advanced materials and health security infrastructure, positioning the region as a national contributor to strategic manufacturing resilience and strengthening both economic diversity and industrial competitiveness. Additionally, the facility will serve as a strategic partner with global nonwoven industry leaders, enhancing innovation, market reach, and collaborative opportunities.

3. Workforce Development:

- Includes structured internship and apprenticeship programs, DoD Skill Bridge veteran training, and partnerships with career academies, high school, technical colleges, and universities.
- Estimated 5-year outcomes:
 - Internships / Apprenticeships: 50–70/year
 - Veterans trained: 25–40/year
 - Students trained: 50–60/year
 - Certifications issued: 75–100/year

4. Regional Enhancement:

- Leverages local educational institutions and infrastructure, providing pathways to skilled employment for residents of disproportionately affected counties. We would also team with the local government.
- On-site R&D supports innovation in sustainable non-woven materials for the future, reinforcing Northwest Florida as a center of manufacturing excellence.

49.2M Project Budget by Phase

Phase Activity	Total Cost (\$)	Triumph 92% (\$)	Company / Other 8% (\$)	Duration
1 Permitting, Design, & Equipment Pre-Order	23,616,000	21,719,000	1,897,000	Months 1–6
2 Facility & Infrastructure Construction	8,856,000	8,145,000	711,000	Months 3–14
3 R&D and Workforce Setup	984,000	905,000	79,000	Months 6–15
4 Equipment Delivery & Installation	14,760,000	13,579,000	1,181,000	Months 12–16
5 Contingency / Project Support	984,000	905,000	79,000	Throughout project
Total	49,200,000	45,264,000	3,936,000	

Optional Workforce Ramp-Up (Years 1–5):

- Internships / Apprenticeships: 25–35 in Year 1 → 60–70 in Year 5
- Veterans trained: 10–15 → 25–40
- Students trained: 20–25 → 50–60
- Certifications issued: 30–40 → 90–120

Conclusion

- This project delivers a unique competitive edge by strengthening domestic supply chain resilience through German-engineered equipment and sourcing all supplies and materials from the U.S.A., supporting the Made in America initiative. The facility will serve the high-output, niche, high-quality melt-blown fabric market, producing an estimated 20,000 tons annually. It will create over 100 high-wage jobs and drive mission-critical economic diversification through advanced manufacturing and comprehensive workforce development.

In addition, the project provides transformational benefits for the regional, national, and global economy, tapping into a nearly \$2 billion market and supporting disproportionately affected communities in Northwest Florida. The facility will also include an on-site R&D program to develop next-generation biodegradable melt-blown fabrics, further reinforcing the region’s leadership in sustainable, innovative manufacturing.

Finally, I sincerely thank Triumph Gulf Coast for the opportunity to apply for this grant. If pre-approved, we will immediately begin coordinating with potential partners, and upon full approval, the project will be executed promptly. Thank you!