

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: The Children’s Home Society of Florida

Proposal Title: YouthWorks Expansion NorthWest

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$25,205,360

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$28,648,860

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization: At The Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS), our Mission is “Building bridges to success for children.” Our Vision is for CHS to be a state and national leader in providing high-quality, community-based solutions “To create a world where all children realize their full potential.” These values drive our decision-making, help us with our planning, and steer us in our work.

At CHS we believe that life can be hard, and no one should face the tough times alone. This approach extends to our workforce preparation initiatives, which target economically disadvantaged youth and those facing other high-risk conditions such as youth aging out of foster care or those following nontraditional educational pathways. CHS delivers the right services at the right time to help Florida residents through difficult challenges and to reach their potential and break cycles of poverty and abuse. CHS reaches more than 55,000 individuals across the state annually, and has been serving the western panhandle for more than 120 years.

Contact Information Primary Contact: Leah Harrison

Title: Executive Director

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City: State: Zip Code:

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Partners, entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed program:

YouthWorks is an embedded community resource, relying on a network of partnerships to provide sustained support to youth as they grow their skills and knowledge and transition into the workforce. Partners currently committed to the success of the program include: CareerSource EscaRosa; School Districts of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties; Referral partners for high-risk youth, including in-school and out-of-school youth, those in or aging out of the child welfare/foster care system, pregnant/parenting youth, and youth returning to the community from detention. These partners include the Department of Children and Families, Families First Network Foster Care/Independent Living, Escambia and Santa Rosa County Community Centers, members of the Circuit 1 DJJ Council, and Healthy Families/Healthy Start programs; Pensacola State College, George Stone Technical College, and Locklin Technical College; Landrum Workforce Solutions.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(i) Amount of funds sought

CHS seeks \$25,205,360 in funding over a 10 year period to support the project.

(ii) Amount and identity of other sources of funds for the proposed project or program

Base funding is provided by CareerSource EscaRosa Youth programming, with \$338,495 committed 2026

(iii) Location of the project

YouthWorks is currently established in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, with on-site services provided at schools and YouthWorks “After Hours” Centers. Phase 1 will occur in EscaRosa, while Phases 2 and 3 will assess needs and expand services into the additional 6-county area along the Gulf that Triumph serves: Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla. An After-Hours mobile response unit will extend services to more remote communities throughout the Gulf Coast, beginning with communities such as Century, McDavid, Molino, Munson, and Allentown in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

(iv) Program summary

The Children’s Home Society of Florida (CHS) requests \$25,205,360 over 10 years to support the expansion of our signature YouthWorks career preparation and workforce development program throughout the Triumph service region in Northwest Florida. CHS proposes to advance our longstanding YouthWorks EscaRosa model so more underrepresented youth can meet the challenges of next-generation industries across the Gulf Coast.

CHS YouthWorks integrates comprehensive career preparation with robust supportive services to ensure at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth have the tools, stability, and confidence needed to pursue higher-paying, long-term employment pathways within sectors important to the region. Through individualized career coaching, industry-recognized training, work readiness workshops, and connections to local employers, YouthWorks equips participants with the skills and experience demanded in today’s workforce. At the same time, the program addresses the barriers that hinder the progress of vulnerable youth—such as unstable housing, mental health needs, transportation challenges, childcare, and limited family support—by providing wraparound resources that promote stability and wellbeing. Components of this proposed expansion include:

- A fully-staffed model with Career Development Coaches, a Lead Youth Career Placement Coach, Educational Coordinator, and Social Service Navigator/Career Navigator who provide hands-on help with preparing for and finding career opportunities;
- Accessible support at After Hours Centers, including a mobile response unit providing career guidance and social support/resources;
- Industry-certified classroom training and test preparation, targeting in-demand occupations;
- Participant support for certification fees and other training costs;
- Assistance and referrals for participants’ social service needs;
- Workforce placement wages for paid on-the-job training;
- Mentoring and advice from professionals.

Anticipated outcomes:

Youth Outcomes in EscaRosa

Category	All EscaRosa	Eco disadvantaged	Homeless
Graduates receiving industry certification	53.5%	50.8%	43.7%
High school graduation rate	87.4%	80.2%	73.4%

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.