

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: Freedom Life Compass, Inc

Proposal Title: Freedom Farms and Freedom Network workforce Infrastructure

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$5,000,000

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$5,000,000

Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:

Freedom Life Compass, Inc. is a Florida-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families overcome barriers to self-sufficiency through life recovery, workforce development, supportive housing, peer support, and community collaboration. Serving Northwest Florida, the organization partners with healthcare providers, employers, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and public agencies to connect people with the resources, skills, and opportunities needed to achieve lasting independence.

Through its network of supportive housing programs, peer recovery services, workforce initiatives, and collaborative community partnerships, Freedom Life Compass has served thousands of individuals and families across the region. The organization is now expanding its impact through **Freedom Farms**, a transformational workforce development and social enterprise campus designed to prepare individuals for meaningful employment while strengthening the economic vitality of the disproportionately affected counties of Northwest Florida.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Stephanie Fitzgerald
Title: President & Founder

Mailing Address: PO Box 43, Valparaiso FL 32580

Telephone Number: 850-420-8280
Email Address: contactus.flc@gmail.com
Website: www.freedomlifecompass.org

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

- Walton County Prevention Coalition & Walton County Health Department
- Walton County Animal Welfare & Alaqua Animal Refuge
- UF/IFAS Extension Walton County- Amanda Masholie - Sustainable Ag & Small Farms Agent

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 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.

Freedom Farms: Northwest Florida Life Recovery & Workforce Development Campus

Freedom Life Compass respectfully requests **\$5,000,000** from Triumph Gulf Coast to develop **Freedom Farms**, a transformational workforce development and life recovery campus located in **Walton County, Florida**. The project will create a regional center where individuals overcoming barriers to employment—including addiction, homelessness, incarceration, poverty, and family crisis—gain the education, vocational skills, work experience, and support necessary to become productive members of Northwest Florida's workforce while contributing to the region's long-term economic growth.

Freedom Farms is designed as a sustainable social enterprise that combines workforce training, supportive housing, agriculture, hospitality, entrepreneurship, and community engagement into one integrated campus. The project will serve residents throughout the disproportionately affected counties while creating permanent jobs, supporting local businesses, and developing a pipeline of trained workers for Northwest Florida employers.

The total estimated Phase I project cost is approximately **\$5.8 million**. Freedom Life Compass is requesting **\$5,000,000** from Triumph Gulf Coast. The remaining funds will be provided through a combination of private philanthropy, corporate sponsorships, in-kind construction partnerships, foundation grants, and organizational contributions. In addition, Freedom Life Compass is actively pursuing funding through regional philanthropic organizations, private donors, community fundraising initiatives, and other state and federal grant opportunities to support complementary program operations and future campus expansion.

The project will be located on a 10.5-acre property in **Walton County**, strategically positioned to serve individuals and partner organizations throughout Walton, Okaloosa, Bay, Santa Rosa, and Escambia Counties. The campus will become a regional hub for workforce preparation, nonprofit collaboration, leadership development, and community engagement.

Phase I includes construction of a workforce training barn, a community chapel and education center, four supportive workforce cottages for women and mothers with children, agricultural training facilities, animal-assisted learning spaces, walking trails, gardens, supporting infrastructure, and the future Freedom Café social enterprise. Together, these components create a campus where participants can progress from crisis stabilization to workforce readiness, employment, entrepreneurship, and ultimately self-sufficiency.

Unlike traditional programs that focus solely on treatment or housing, Freedom Farms addresses one of Northwest Florida's most significant economic challenges—the loss of workforce participation among individuals facing substantial barriers to employment. Participants will receive training in agriculture, animal care, hospitality, food service, customer service, facilities maintenance, landscaping, nonprofit operations, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, leadership development, and life skills while participating in structured employment experiences throughout the campus.

The campus will also function as a regional training and collaboration center for nonprofit organizations, employers, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, and community

partners working together to strengthen Northwest Florida's workforce. Meeting spaces, workshops, leadership conferences, and vocational certifications will expand opportunities for both residents and community members while strengthening partnerships across the region.

Freedom Farms is intentionally designed as a financially sustainable model that generates ongoing economic activity beyond the initial capital investment. Revenue generated through horse boarding, agricultural operations, educational workshops, community events, cottage rentals, the Freedom Café, and other social enterprise activities will support campus operations while creating additional employment opportunities and reducing long-term dependence on grant funding.

The anticipated economic outcomes extend well beyond the construction phase. During development, the project will generate significant work for local contractors, engineers, architects, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, suppliers, landscapers, and material vendors. Once operational, Freedom Farms will create permanent employment opportunities in program management, agriculture, hospitality, maintenance, peer support, administration, and food service while increasing demand for local goods and services throughout the region.

The project is expected to produce measurable regional benefits, including increased workforce participation among individuals with significant employment barriers, expanded vocational training opportunities, strengthened nonprofit collaboration, new small-business development through entrepreneurship education, increased utilization of local contractors and suppliers, and a sustainable model for rural economic development that can be replicated throughout Northwest Florida.

Summary Timeline

Months 1–6: Final engineering and architectural design, permitting, environmental review, contractor procurement, infrastructure planning, and site preparation.

Months 7–18: Construction of roads, utilities, drainage, parking, the workforce training barn, chapel and education center, supportive cottages, agricultural facilities, and supporting infrastructure.

Months 19–24: Installation of equipment and furnishings, hiring of staff, development of workforce curriculum, establishment of employer partnerships, animal program implementation, and operational readiness.

Month 25 and Beyond: Full campus operations begin with workforce training, entrepreneurship programming, agricultural activities, supportive housing services, community education, nonprofit collaboration, and phased expansion of revenue-generating social enterprises.

Freedom Farms represents a transformational investment in Northwest Florida's future by connecting workforce development, economic diversification, entrepreneurship, infrastructure investment, and community collaboration into one innovative campus. Through strategic partnerships and sustainable social enterprise, the project will strengthen the regional economy, expand employment opportunities, and create lasting economic benefits for the disproportionately affected counties while providing a replicable model for workforce development across the Gulf Coast region.