

SAVE THE CLOSET

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. — Pre-Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Save the Closet, Inc. (d/b/a Shop the Closet)

Proposal Title: Permanent Community Facility & Workforce Hub — Purchase and Remodeling of 2901 W 17th Street, Panama City

Amount of Triumph Funds Requested: \$375,000 (toward acquisition and remodeling)

Total Estimated Project Cost: Approximately \$1,350,000 (purchase price plus remodeling/upgrades)

Brief Description of Organization: Save the Closet is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free clothing after large-scale disasters and supports local Title I schools, workforce readiness, and community referrals. Operations are sustained by Shop the Closet curated thrift stores. The organization has conducted 67 giveaways across nine states and clothed nearly 40,000 people.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Katy Lingle Pinson | Title: Founder & Director

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Co-applicants / Partners: None at this time. Program partners include Bay District Title I schools, local churches, shelters, transitional housing providers, and referring agencies.

ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY (Section 288.8017)

Primary category selected:

- 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.**

The project creates a permanent hub for Stitching Stability (job-training in sewing, mending, and alterations) and employment-readiness services (Share the Closet and a permanent free work closet), building portable skills and removing barriers to work for Bay County residents.

PRIORITIES THIS PROPOSAL'S OUTCOMES WILL ACHIEVE

- Generate maximum estimated economic benefits (workforce training, employment readiness, and earned-income operations that reduce dependence on external funding).
- Provide outcome measures (individuals trained, work-clothing placements, Title I students served, disaster responses staged, revenue sustaining programs).
- Partner with K-20 educational institutions or school districts within the disproportionately affected counties (ongoing Title I / Bay District Schools support).
- Partner with local governments / recommended by Board of County Commissioners — to be pursued as the project advances.

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(i) Amount of Triumph funds sought

Save the Closet requests \$[Amount] from Triumph Gulf Coast toward the purchase and remodeling of a permanent facility at 2901 W 17th Street, Panama City. Funds will support acquisition and necessary upgrades so the building can house retail operations, job-training space, a free work closet, and disaster-response staging capacity.

(ii) Other sources of funds

The balance of project cost is expected from: (a) senior and/or community-development financing (discussions underway with Florida Community Loan Fund and local lenders); (b) earned income from existing Shop the Closet thrift operations; and (c) targeted capital fundraising. Save the Closet has operated as a grassroots organization, earning virtually every dollar through thrift sales rather than grants. A Triumph investment would leverage this earned-income model and accelerate scale-up of workforce and community programs from a stable, visible location.

(iii) Location

2901 W 17th Street, Panama City, Bay County, Florida — one of the eight disproportionately affected counties. The site offers significantly stronger public visibility than current locations and sufficient square footage for both revenue-generating retail and mission programs under one roof.

(iv) Summary description — transformational impact on economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement

Save the Closet will convert the property into a permanent Community Facility & Workforce Hub that advances economic recovery and enhancement in Bay County in three ways:

1. Transferable workforce skills (Stitching Stability). Hands-on training in sewing, mending, alterations, and clothing care prepares participants for employment in tailoring, alterations, upholstery, costume work, and related fields. Damaged donated items are remade into saleable goods, creating both skills and revenue. Skills are portable and not confined to a single employer.

2. Employment readiness and barrier removal. Share the Closet (mobile boutique) and a permanent free work closet equip people referred by agencies, churches, schools, and shelters with appropriate clothing for job interviews and daily work—supporting household income and economic participation.

3. Resilient community capacity. A dedicated facility strengthens the ability to stage and deploy mobile disaster-relief clothing responses after hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes—services already delivered across nine states and nearly 40,000 people—while continuing year-round Title I school support in Bay District Schools.

The model is self-reinforcing: thrift sales fund outreach; the new location's visibility grows earned income; training and work-clothing programs increase local workforce readiness. This creates lasting economic enhancement rather than one-time relief.

(v) Summary timeline

- Pre-application and initial discussions with Triumph and financing partners — immediate
- Secure financing commitments and complete due diligence on property — 3–6 months
- Closing and initial remodeling / build-out for retail + training + work closet — 6–12 months
- Launch expanded Stitching Stability classes and free work closet; scale Share the Closet and Title I support — upon occupancy
- Ongoing outcome tracking (individuals trained, placements, students served, disaster responses) and reporting

This pre-application is submitted for initial eligibility consideration. Save the Closet is prepared to submit a full Application and any additional information requested by Triumph Gulf Coast.

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