

CCAA APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST  
**Charlotte Technical College (CTC)**  
**New Facility for Aviation Maintenance School**



**TEXT FOR LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION/AGENDA**

**Charlotte County Airport Authority**

The Charlotte County Airport Authority (CCAA) is requesting a total of \$3 million in State funding through the State Appropriations process for a new combined hangar and classroom facility for Charlotte Technical College's (CTC) FAA-certified Aviation Maintenance Technician School. A larger facility is necessary to meet the aviation industry demand for aircraft mechanics, CTC's growing student enrollment and its DEO requirement of 750 completers in 10 years (2018-19 Grant). State funding is essential to keep CTC's costs low enough for tuition to remain affordable for students. CCAA will construct the facility and enter into a long-term lease with County Public Schools (CCPS) whereby CCPS will occupy and maintain the facility at the land-lease rate. This project aims to diversify economic development opportunities in the region, create new and high-quality job candidates, and support a burgeoning aviation industry in Florida.

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**TEXT FOR HOUSE & SENATE APPROPRIATIONS FORMS**

**Total cost of the project**

1. Amount requested - \$3,000,000
  2. Federal - \$6,000,000 (aircraft ramp – FAA, received)
  3. State - \$1,200,000 (taxiway access – FDOT, received)
  4. Local - \$250,000 (parking lot – CCAA, future) + \$250,000 (FF&E- CCSB, future)
  5. Other - \$1,500,000 (aircraft ramp – Allegiant PFC, received)
- TOTAL - \$12,200,000

**What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?**

Construct a new hangar and classroom facility for CTC's FAA-certified AMT School to meet growing student enrollment and aviation industry demand for aircraft mechanics. CTC's program launched in August 2021 and a larger facility is necessary to meet DEO requirement of 750 completers in 10 years (2018-19 Grant). State funding is essential to keep CTC's costs low enough for tuition to remain affordable for students. This project aims to diversify economic development opportunities in the region, create new and high-quality jobs, and support a burgeoning aviation industry in Florida.

**What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?**

New hangar facility will have 4 classrooms to accommodate up to 100 students at a time and will be located in Punta Gorda Airport's (PGD) new aviation expansion area, which will streamline OJT training as it becomes a hub for avionics and aircraft maintenance businesses. CCAA will construct the facility and enter into a long-term lease with County Public Schools (CCPS) whereby CCPS will occupy and maintain the facility at the land-lease rate; at less cost than its existing facility.

**Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.**

U.S. aviation industry is facing a technical worker shortage that threatens to undermine the growth and competitiveness of one of the most important sectors of our economy. The aviation industry is necessary for mobility of people and goods, and for the safety of civil aviation aircraft. Graduates will serve as technicians for NAICS codes 336411, 336413, 488190, 611512. Within a 50-mile radius, 140 firms are engaged in aircraft manufacturing, engine and parts, aerospace and air transportation. There are over 400 aviation firms within 100 miles and over 2,000 in the State of Florida.

**Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?**

CTC's AMT School is open to all adults, veterans, high-school dropouts and high school students over the age of 16 with a desire to obtain occupational skills necessary for employment as a

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certified Airframe & Powerplant mechanic. Once the facility is complete, CTC will expect to have 50 of graduates each year. CTC is also partnering with Florida Southwestern State College to offer the Associate in Science (AS) in Aviation administration Management as an articulated pathway for graduates following attainment of their program certificate with CTC.

**Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome. Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome**

Increase or improve economic activity –

- FDOT's Statewide Aviation Impact Study attributed 1.275 billion in economic impact to PGD in 2018. In 2021's Milken Institute Best Performing Cities Index, the Punta Gorda-Charlotte County MSA rose to #11 on the national Tier 1 Small Cities ranking. CCAA and Charlotte County have a strong baseline of aviation tenants and jobs.
- Continue to measure statewide and national economic impact rankings, as well as direct impacts from jobs and payroll. CTC and CCAA will also measure the number and quality of new aviation, avionics and aircraft maintenance companies that come to PGD with CTC's program as an attributing factor.

Create specific immediate job opportunities –

- Florida's 2021-22 regional demand occupation list shows 1,474 vacancies for positions that this program serves. CTC has a baseline of employer verification forms and verification statements that track potential salaries of graduates.
- Measure CTC's impact on the regional demand occupation list. Measure the number of employer verification forms and verification statements. CTC will measure completion, placement and licensure and report to the Council on Occupational Education.

Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency –

- In Charlotte County 30% of households (approximately 29,964 households)\* fall into the category of ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed), while another 10% of Charlotte County households live at Federal Poverty Level, meaning that close to half (40%) are struggling to meet basic needs.
- Increase economic sufficiency in order to maximize graduates earnings and earn a higher living wage. Graduating aircraft mechanics earn an average annual wage of \$69,040. CTC will track graduating students' job placement, salaries and attainment of master credentials. The local United Way will periodically measure ALICE statistics as more high-quality jobs are created.

Improve Quality of Education -

- Expand the "learn and earn" workforce model and improve re-skilling opportunities for adults currently in the workforce in other occupations. Implement a more seamless entry into the aviation mechanics workforce through an enhanced continuing education course

CCAA APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST  
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in between graduation, certificate testing and job placement. Provide prep-course assistance before certification tests.

- Recruit and measure participation from aviation employers in the post-graduation period to place interns and full-time positions. Survey students' occupations and salaries pre and post graduation to measure improvement in earnings. CTC will evaluate effectiveness of "learn and earn" model through success rate of graduates through certificate completions and job placements.

**Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome. Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome**

Increase economic sufficiency in order to maximize graduates earnings & earn a higher living wage. CTC will track graduating students' job placement, salaries and attainment of master credentials. CTC and CCAA will also measure the number and quality of new aviation, avionics and aircraft maintenance companies that come to PGD with CTC's program as an attributing factor. Measure CTC's impact on the regional demand occupation list. Measure the number of employer verification forms and verification statements. CTC will measure completion, placement and licensure and report to the Council on Occupational Education.

Recruit and measure participation from aviation employers in the post-graduation period to place interns and full-time positions. Survey students' occupations and salaries pre and post graduation to measure improvement in earnings. CTC will evaluate effectiveness of "learn and earn" model through success rate of graduates through certificate completions and job placements.

**The owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.**

The facility will become an extension campus for CTC, and CCAA will enter into a long-term lease at the land-lease rate with Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS). Of \$500K local funds, CCAA will pay for the estimated \$250K parking lot and CCPS will contribute approximately \$250K for FF&E to make the facility classroom ready.

**Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing or other expressions of support?**

The project is supported by Charlotte County School Board, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, CTC's Aviation Advisory Board members, Economic Development Partnership, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce members, etc. Letters of support will be posted at [www.flypgd.com/amt-school-request/](http://www.flypgd.com/amt-school-request/)

**Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated. (500 words)**

Agreement with state agency would outline timelines, benchmarks and any necessary reporting requirements.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### FUNDING

- CCAA is requesting support to obtain a total of \$3 million in State funding through the State Appropriations process for a new combined hangar and classroom facility for CTC on the north side of the airport.
- In order to make this project feasible, CCAA has secured funding from other sources for the infrastructure, aircraft ramp and taxiway access. This includes, but is not limited to, \$6 million in funding from the FAA and \$1.2 million from the FDOT, along with \$1.5 million from Allegiant's passenger facility charges.
- CCAA will commit approximately \$250,000 for the cost of parking lot construction.
- CCSB will commit approximately \$250,000 for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) to make the facility classroom ready.

### IDEAL LOCATION

- We are envisioning a large hangar facility that would have four air-conditioned classroom spaces for 25 students each, as well as restroom facilities, office/meeting space and associated parking on the north side of the airport.
- The north side, known as the <https://pgdaviex.com/>, will become a hub for general aviation (GA) activities to flourish, as well as a prime spot for onsite flight schools, avionics and aircraft maintenance services, and related training programs to expand.
- This is a perfect area for CTC to relocate since the new PGD Air Center is already under construction, and other aircraft maintenance businesses have letters of intent to develop in the AviEx.
- Having CTC's training facility in the hub of the aviation industry will allow for increased work based activities, on-the-job training for students, and greater potential for increased enrollment opportunities.
- The location will make on-the-job training more seamless and will further encourage economic development and a strong workforce training model.

### TIMING/NEED

- CTC has an outstanding program director and staff, and is well-situated at Punta Gorda Airport for 50 students at a time. We see enrollment continuing to grow with the demand for aircraft mechanics rising, and CTC is already planning to accommodate more students

CCAA APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST  
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with additional modular unit(s) at their current site. However, this is not a permanent solution, so they must continue to strategize and plan for the future.

- The Aviation Maintenance Technician Program is off to a strong start, with 50 adult students, 22 seniors and 28 underclassmen in the feeder program. CTC has received their FAA certification for airframe maintenance, and its powerplant certification should be received within the next two months.
- With the DEO requirement of 750 completers in 10 years (2018-19 Florida Job Growth Grant), CTC has no other option but to recruit, train, complete and place students into the workforce.
- CCAA is hopeful that we might have official approval by July 2022 so that we could start the facility's design by December 2022. Ideally, the facility would be completed in mid-2024 so that all the equipment would be moved during the July 2024 summer break and there would be no interruption of learning. The timing and seamless transition is important to meeting CTC's existing grant requirements.
- In the long term, this is the most viable solution to keep CTC's costs manageable. The CCAA is giving CTC a discounted \$600 annual lease rate for five years through 2024. This agreement with the CCAA is saving CCPS \$155,875 over five years. The annual market rate for the current modular/hangar is \$31,775, and CTC's lease assumes the monthly rate will go up to \$2,648 starting in 2025.
- By building a new facility in the AviEx, CTC will be able to discontinue the existing modular/hangar lease with the CCAA and enter into a much less expensive, land-only lease on the north side; projected to be \$943.80/month. *The monthly rate will be reduced further with a credit for CCAA's utilization of the parking lot that CCPS built in 2020.*
- *Based on CCAA's [2020-2021 Property Appraisal](#), 1 acre of airside land is \$3.25 per square foot, or valued at \$141,570. The current lease rate of one airside acre at 8% is \$943.80/month.*
- *CCAA land leases are subject to FAA requirements: Land leases are available with and without runway access for terms up to 49 years and up to 150 acres, depending on availability. Annual lease rates are 8-12% of the land value, negotiable based on the length of the contract and property size. Leases are subject to Fair Market Value increases.*

#### **INDUSTRY NEED**

- Florida's 2021-22 regional demand occupation list shows 1,474 vacancies for positions that this program serves.
- As 30% of the workforce is near retirement age, CTC's AMT School graduates will serve as technicians for NAICS codes 336411, 336413, 488190, 611512.