

STATE OF GEORGIA

CITY OF DEKALB

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA) SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT**

This **AGREEMENT**, made this 21st day of August 2023, by and between **CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA**, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia (the “City”) and the **GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE**, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia (“Recipient”).

**W I T N E S S E T H:**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) was signed into law and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which comprise the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF” program); and

**WHEREAS**, the eligible uses of American Rescue Plan Act funds include, but are not limited to, addressing the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and state and local governments’ efforts to contain impacts on their communities, residents, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is the recipient of a SLFRF award from the federal government for the execution of projects and activities under ARPA and its implementing regulations 31 CFR Part 35; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recipient has requested ARPA funds from the City to expand and develop additional workforce training programs through the purchase of commercial trucks and simulators to be utilized in its logistics training facility located within City limits, as further described below (the “Project”), which will assist the City in rebuilding the local economy and the employment shortcomings that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19-pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia (the “State”) recently became the location of several environmentally friendly electric car and battery manufacturing plants, and a solar manufacturing plant located southeast, northeast, and northwest respective to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-20 corridor connects and runs across the City that is advantageously located to fully benefit from the economic progress and development of the State and its investments in transportation, logistics, and other public infrastructure to support the electric car, electric battery, and solar manufacturing plants being built across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the City hosts more than 800 companies within its boundaries, and has also invested significant sums in two (2) industrial parks currently occupied by several well-known logistics and transportation companies that are capable of supporting the State’s current and future investments in the state’s transportation, logistics, and other public infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the City boasts a significant amount of undeveloped land out of any municipality within Metro Atlanta that could be utilized for additional economic development activities aligned with the State’s investments in transportation, logistics and other public infrastructure for the electric car, electric battery, and solar manufacturing plants locating in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of that goal, the City will also place a Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (the “MARTA”) hub within City limits to become the gateway to many parts of the State to support the State’s logistics and transportation industries servicing the various environmentally friendly manufacturing plants; and

**WHEREAS**, the City envisions and plans for a robust logistics and transportation workforce through its economic development and planning activities of providing job training and employment for City residents with the Recipient’s logistics training facility to counteract

the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency of the City's residents;

**WHEREAS**, one of the four statutory eligible uses of a SLFRF award is to respond to such negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the respective parties hereto wish to memorialize the terms and conditions under which the funds will be issued and the parties hereto will be bound.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises, conditions and covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. Scope of Project. The City shall, based upon the terms and conditions contained herein, grant to the Recipient the amount of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/NONE (\$500,000.00) in FY 2023. Recipient shall use these funds to purchase commercial trucks, trailers, and simulators to be used in its logistics training facility located at 6720 Marbut Rd, Lithonia, GA 30058. The Recipient shall also use such funds and the purchased commercial trucks, trailers, and simulators to offer internships, scholarships, and/or free or discounted workforce training & certification programs for City residents to counter the negative economic impact the COVID-19 public health emergency has to the City's local economy as further specified in Addendum B.

2. Accountability. The Recipient agrees to expend the funds granted by the City solely in conformance with the terms of this Agreement, and to account for said funds in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Any funds not expended for the purposes provided herein shall be returned to the City.

3. Disbursement of Funds. The City shall provide the grant of funds to the Recipient for the FY 2023 in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/NONE dollars (\$500,000.00) upon receipt of this signed Agreement and the attached Addendum A and B

regarding expenditure and program reporting. Funds shall be disbursed no more than 30 days after Agreement is executed.

4. Conflicts of Interest. The Recipient warrants and represents that none of the principals, agents, or employees of the Recipient have violated any applicable federal, state, or local conflict of interest laws, ordinances, rules or regulations, and that the aforementioned parties shall continuously comply with all of the foregoing throughout the term of this Agreement. Additionally, the Recipient attests that all principals of the Recipient have certified the same.

5. Enforceable and Legally Binding Act. The Recipient certifies that it is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Georgia; and that it has all of the requisite power and authority to enter into this Agreement and to assume the responsibilities herein including the expenditure of funds; and that all necessary actions have been and will be taken in conformance with all applicable laws to make this Agreement and actions hereunder valid, enforceable and legally binding acts of the Recipient.

7. No Agency or Partnership. Nothing herein nor any actions of the parties hereto or their agents or employees shall create any agency relationship, partnership or joint venture, between the City and the Recipient. The City is not an agent or representative of the Recipient. The Recipient is not an agent or representative of the City.

8. Termination. The City may terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, after providing thirty ( 30 ) business days written notice to the Recipient. If at the time of termination, any funds provided under this Agreement have not been disbursed to the Recipient such funds shall be retained by the City. Except in the case of the material breach of this Agreement and as a remedy for material breach under the terms set forth in Paragraph 9 herein,

all funds provided under this Agreement prior to any termination shall be retained by the Recipient.

9. Satisfaction. In the event the City determines, after consultation with the Recipient and after providing the Recipient with written notice and a reasonable opportunity to cure, that the Recipient: (i) has failed to comply with the terms of this Agreement in a timely manner, (ii) has failed to complete all or a portion of the actions required under the Agreement; (iii) has acted in any way contrary to the purposes for which the grant was awarded; or (iv) has violated any federal, state, or local law, ordinance or regulation, Recipient shall be required to return to the City all funds disbursed under this Agreement, upon written request.

10. Funding restrictions

The City is awarding funds to the Recipient for the purpose of addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, by expanding and developing workforce training programs, and assist the City in rebuilding the local economy and the employment shortcomings that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19-pandemic. ARPA funds cannot be used to:

- (a) Payoff debt
- (b) Fund pension accounts
- (c) Match other federal grants
- (d) Satisfy a judgment or settlement
- (e) Contribute to a “rainy day” fund

11. Mandatory Reporting. As a condition of receipt of any and all grant amounts and funds conveyed through the Terms herein of this Agreement, the Parties mutually agree that Recipient shall be required to file monthly and quarterly, or otherwise upon written request by the City, a(n) expenditure report(s) with the City as described in Addendum A. The Recipient

shall also provide the City with any other information, documents and/or photographs the City reasonably deems necessary to monitor performance of this Agreement on a quarterly basis. Quarterly basis is herein described as every three (3) calendar months, beginning from the effective date of this Agreement.

Expenditure report(s) shall be submitted by the Recipient monthly and quarterly, or upon written request by the City, through the City Manager's office, and expenditure reports are due to the City by 4 P.M. starting on the first quarter of CY2024 and quarterly thereafter. Should the City request in writing a report(s) described in this paragraph herein on dates other than the dates specified above, the City shall provide at least fifteen (15) business days advance written notice. Failure to keep and maintain records, and/or failure to provide a report(s) on the aforementioned specific dates, or any other dates requested by the City, with the requisite advance written notice, shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement on the part of Recipient.

The Recipient agrees to maintain proper and accurate books, records and accounts reflecting its administration of funds provided under this Agreement and compliance with all applicable laws. Such documentation shall be retained for at least five (5) years from the completion of said project, and shall be made promptly available to the City upon request. The Recipient further agrees that an accounting of funds provided under this Agreement shall be included in the next regularly scheduled audit or financial statement of the Recipient and any future audits or financial statements until all expenditures of funds provided under this Agreement have been accounted for. The Recipient acknowledges and agrees that any unresolved findings of the City concerning expenditure of project funds, whether based on an audit report, financial statement, project completion report or independent investigation of the

City, shall preclude the Recipient from applying for or receiving any further grants or other funds from the City, until such findings are resolved to the reasonable satisfaction of the City.

12. Indemnification.

(a) To the extent authorized by law, Recipient shall indemnify, defend, save and otherwise hold harmless the City, its elected and appointed officials, departments, agencies, boards, authorities, directors, officers, employees, and volunteers against and/or from any and all lawsuits, claims, demands, liabilities, losses and expenses, including court costs, attorneys' fees and any other costs associated and/or related in any way to any claim or litigation for or on account of any property damage, injury or death to any person or action related to such brought by any person and/or estate which may arise or which may be alleged to have arisen out of or in connection within the scope of this Agreement, except to the extent that such loss results from the negligence of the City. Recipient shall protect the City from claims involving infringements of patents and/or copyrights. The unauthorized use of patented articles is done at the risk of the Recipient. This indemnity includes any claim or amount arising out of or recovered under the Workers' Compensation laws of the State of Georgia or arising out of the failure of such vendor to conform to any federal, state or local law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation or court decree. The Recipient shall be responsible for primary loss investigation, defense and judgment costs where this indemnification is applicable. Recipient shall agree to waive all rights of subrogation and/or financial recovery of any kind in favor of the City, its departments, all elected and appointed officials, to include, but not limited to, its commissioners, directors, officers, agents, boards, volunteers and employees for losses arising or alleged to have arisen out of any work performed in relation to the Agreement.

(b) To the extent authorized by law, the City shall indemnify, defend, save and otherwise hold harmless Recipient, its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers against and/or from any and all lawsuits, claims, demands, liabilities, losses and expenses, including court costs, attorneys' fees and any other costs associated and/or related in any way to any claim or litigation for or on account of any property damage, injury or death to any person or action related to such brought by any person and/or estate which may arise or which may be alleged to have arisen out of or in connection within the scope of this Agreement, except to the extent that such loss results from the negligence of Recipient. This indemnity includes any claim or amount arising out of or recovered under the Workers' Compensation laws of the State of Georgia or arising out of the failure of the City to conform to any federal, state or local law, statute, ordinance, rule, regulation or court decree. The City shall be responsible for primary loss investigation, defense and judgment costs where this indemnification is applicable.

13. Severability. If any provision of this Agreement is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other part or provision of the Agreement.

14. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among and between the parties. There are no representations, oral or otherwise, other than those expressly set forth herein. No amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be binding unless both parties have agreed to the modification in writing.

15. Governing law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Georgia. The venue for any disputes arising from this agreement shall be Fulton Superior Court, Georgia.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first above written.

**{Signatures on the following page}**

**STONECREST, GEORGIA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jazzmin Cobble

Mayor, Stonecrest, Georgia

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

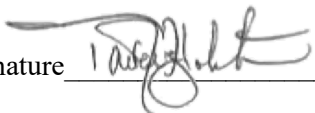
Sonya Isom

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fincher Denmark, City Attorney

**GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

Date 8/28/2023

Print Name Dr. Tavarez Holston

Print Title President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Print Title \_\_\_\_\_

ADDENDUM "A"  
EXPENDITURE

**Financial Reporting Requirements:** Recipients must follow all rules when accepting grant funds from the city. These grants funds are subject to an annual audit. **I certify that my public or private organization:**

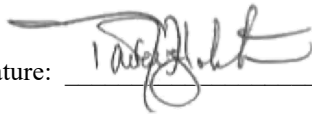
- Will use ARPA funds according to the ARPA Subrecipient Agreement,
- Will provide all required reports to the City Council in a timely manner,
- Will expend monies only on eligible costs and keep complete documentation (copies of canceled checks – front and back, invoices, receipts, etc.) on all expenditures for a minimum of five (5) years after end of program,
- Will provide complete documentation of funds expended, to the city, on the required quarterly basis until the funds granted to Recipient is fully expended,
- Will allow for review by the City Council if required.

Please check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have read, understand and agree to abide by the requirements listed above.
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Organization Name: Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Title: President

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 8/28/2023

Address: 495 North Indian Creek Drive

City/State/Zip: Clarkston, Georgia 30021

## ADDENDUM “B” PROGRAM REPORTING

Project [Identification Number]: [Project Name]

Funding amount: [Funding amount]

Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

### Project overview

Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) is proposing a \$500,000 grant award to support the expansion of the college’s training program through the purchase of additional semi-tractor trailer trucks, simulators, and student-level hardship support. GPTC’s CDL program is recognized by the FMCSA ELDT Training Registry for in-person training. GPTC has a long history of providing training for CDL Class A and Class B drivers, with a proven track record of producing qualified graduates to work in the transportation and logistics industry. Over the course of a year, GPTC provides nearly 50,000 training hours to approximately 1250 students. To expand program access, the \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding from the City of Stonecrest will provide the necessary financial assistance to expand the program’s scope through the purchase of programmatic equipment and nearly double the number of students served. Additional funds to support student financial hardship needs will promote positive student outcomes.

Purchasing of programmatic equipment will commence upon receipt of funds from Stonecrest. Student-level hardship funding will be awarded at the onset of the subsequent term, upon receipt of funds. Student-level hardship funding will be distributed to students through the GPTC Foundation. Eligible students who are residents of Stonecrest will apply to the GPTC Foundation for funds to support their student learning needs.

The institution maintains thorough records, including invoices, purchase orders, and maintenance logs, to demonstrate effective resource use. Similarly, when distributing funds for student-level hardship scholarships, relying on evidence is crucial. The institution follows a clear scholarship application process, which includes the identification of the student need, and employs a robust review system. This ensures fair scholarship allocation, highlighting the institution's dedication to equal support and an encouraging learning environment. These methods are the institution's commitment to improving student learning experiences and industry readiness, as backed by concrete documentation.

# GPTC and City of Stonecrest ARPA Grant Award to CDL Program Expansion



**KRISTIN JEAN CORKHILL, Ed.D.**

Georgia Piedmont Technical College

June 9, 2023

## PROJECT NARRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) is proposing a \$500,000 grant award to support the expansion of the college's training program through the purchase of additional semi-tractor trailer trucks. GPTC's CDL program is recognized by the FMCSA ELDT Training Registry for in-person training. GPTC has a long history of providing training for CDL Class A and Class B drivers, with a proven track record of producing qualified graduates to work in the transportation and logistics industry. Over the course of a year, GPTC provides nearly 50,000 training hours to approximately 1250 students. To expand program access, the \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding from the City of Stonecrest will provide the necessary financial assistance to expand the program's scope through the purchase of semi-tractor trailer trucks and nearly double the number of students served.

GPTC's CDL program is a hands-on learning environment and the trucks are a vital and necessary extension of the classroom. Time spent in the trucks play a vital role in educating students who aspire to become commercial truck drivers. As an example, the CDL Class A course spans over 8 weeks, and 95% of the course is conducted in the truck itself. This makes it analogous to a science class being held in a laboratory. The class time in the truck is the lab experience for CDL students. Without access to the trucks, students are missing a crucial component of learning necessary to become safe and successful drivers.

Currently, the instructor to student ratio is at 4-1, which is a standard procedure among accredited programs. During the pandemic, ratios were at 1-1. Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize the purchase of additional semi-tractor trailer trucks for the Georgia Piedmont Technical College CDL program in order to expand the number of participants able to complete the required training experience. By doing so, students will have access to the equipment they need to acquire hands-on experience and develop the skills needed to become skilled commercial truck drivers.

## INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

For more than 60 years, GPTC has been providing high-quality education and career training to students of all backgrounds. Founded in 1961, Georgia Piedmont Technical College is one of the oldest of the 22 colleges in the Technical College System of Georgia. At the heart of GPTC's mission is promoting "workforce development within a learner-centered environment through adult education, technical education and customized business and industry training in DeKalb, Newton and Rockdale counties" (GPTC mission, n.d.). At GPTC, there are three silos of students with Adult Education, for-credit courses in Technical Education and Academic Programs that articulate into the University System of Georgia, and Economic Development for short-term

training. GPTC also promotes the ideal of life-long learning, and as a result, students may find themselves in a combination of student types.

The college is located in the greater, metro-Atlanta area, a three-county service region that extends from the urban city center through suburbs into a rural community. In AY 2021, there were approximately 3819 students enrolled at GPTC. Of those enrolled, nearly 80% were considered economically disadvantaged. GPTC's student population is more than 65% female, 80% identify as Black or African American, with an average age of 26 years old. GPTC is designated as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) by the U.S. Department of Education under the Higher Education Act (HEA).

GPTC's location in the metro-Atlanta area, at the intersection of three major interstates (Interstates 75, 85, and 20) makes it a critical partner within the logistics industry in the state. GPTC's primary CDL training location is at the Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC) in the Stonecrest area of Southwest DeKalb County.

This campus is under considerable renovation, with nearly \$12 million invested by local, state, and federal partners to build a new facility opening in 2024. When completed, the new campus will create an ecosystem specifically designed to meet industry needs by bringing key stakeholders with transportation and logistics interests under one roof. The new facility is a 28,000-square foot space that houses higher education, private industries, emerging businesses, and governmental agencies creating a tremendous synergy that will make a significant regional impact in the industry. Part of the money raised was through Congressional Directed Spending and a Community Project Funding, with \$1 million allocated in FY 2022. While funds have been raised to support the construction of the facility, GPTC is still in need of financial resources to expand the training capabilities of the CDL program through the purchase of additional trucks.

GPTC's primary mission is to prepare students to enter the workforce in high-demand career fields that align with local industry and workforce needs. GPTC's programs are developed in coordination with industry leaders from the region who serve on advisory boards for the related academic departments. For the CDL program pathways, GPTC has developed strong and last relationships with MARTA, the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. MARTA is the principal public transportation operator in the Atlanta metropolitan area, serving the city of Atlanta as well as the surrounding region. Additionally, GPTC partners with other companies to provide the necessary training for both the bus and trucking industries.

The community relationships that GPTC has built also lend support to the CDL programs. Because GPTC operates through three silos of education, Adult Education, Credit, and Economic Development, various organizations support the program enrollment. To promote education and

job training for refugees, GPTC partners with known agencies such as New American Pathways and Center for Victims of Torture--Georgia. These agencies partner with GPTC to promote enrollment in the college's Adult Education program for participants to learn English and train in a field that will prepare them for a career. In summer of 2021, GPTC established a program called **READY, STEP, LEAP!**, an innovative program that removes barriers to a college education and/or workforce training or refugee students who were forced to flee their countries without proof of high school graduation. It is GPTC's version of an adult education initiative often referred to as an IET – or Integrated Education and Training. A student enrolls in free English as a Second Language (ESL) or high school equivalency classes and then chooses a career-focused pathway that makes the most sense for him or her, with CDL being a popular option for participants. Participants earn their credential and are ready to join the workforce or continue on their pathway toward a diploma or possible a degree. Nearly all costs are covered through grants and federal funding.

Additionally, GPTC's relationship with local companies such as MARTA have created a demand for training through Economic Development—short-term professional development. Students enroll in GPTC's 8-week or 12-week training program.

The third avenue for participation is through GPTC's credit program, a traditional pathway to college enrollment. This pathway articulates into a larger credential in the logistics and transportation industry. Students can earn the college certificate in CDL and enter the workforce or can continue on towards a diploma or degree in logistics. The popularity of the program has created a waitlist of nearly 500 students.

Georgia Piedmont Technical College is committed to providing high-quality training to all students. As a minority serving institution, with a large population of refugees, GPTC aims to expand access to a traditionally underserved population through the CDL training program. The \$500,000 ARPA grant award from the City of Stonecrest will have a direct impact on the future training and employability of its citizens in this high-demand job sector.

The transportation and logistics industry is a critical sector of the economy that provides job opportunities for people of all backgrounds. However, for traditionally underserved populations, such as low-income individuals and refugees, access to training and education for this field can be limited by financial constraints. Georgia Piedmont Technical College recognizes the importance of expanding access to education and career readiness for these populations, and is committed to addressing the barriers that prevent them from participating in the college's 12-week CDL program.



Over the past five years, the college has averaged a nearly 100% job placement rate for graduates and a 90% testing pass rate for CDL participants. Despite these programmatic successes and the investments in infrastructure, the college cannot expand student enrollment and serve the needs of the community without further investment in semi-tractor trailer trucks.

These trucks are an extension of the classroom environment and play a vital role in educating students who aspire to become commercial truck drivers. The CDL Class A course spans over 8 weeks, and 95% of the course is conducted in the truck itself. This makes it analogous to a science class being held in a laboratory. The class time in the truck is the lab experience for CDL students. Without access to the trucks, students are missing a crucial component of learning necessary to become safe and successful drivers. Currently, the instructor to student ratio is at 4-1, which is a standard procedure among accredited programs. During the pandemic, ratios were at 1-1. Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize the purchase of semi-tractor trailer trucks for the Georgia Piedmont Technical College CDL program. By doing so, students will have the equipment they need to acquire hands-on experience and develop the skills needed to become skilled commercial truck drivers.

Through the purchase of additional semi-tractor trailer trucks, Georgia Piedmont Technical College will promote economic mobility to an expanded student population. By increasing the training capacity created by additional semi-tractor trailer trucks purchased through the \$500,000 ARPA grant from the City of Stonecrest program will help to diversify the workforce in the transportation and logistics industry, creating opportunities for people of all backgrounds to thrive in this critical sector of the economy.

## REFERENCES

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