**Statewide Initiatives for 2020**

**Discussion Paper**

**Background**

A Statewide Initiative is a funding request or mandate that results in a competitive Request for Application (RFA). The Commission approves ongoing statewide initiatives as part of the operating budget process annually. Once the Commission approves the initiatives, the RFA development process begins in earnest, and an RFA tracker is developed to manage the ongoing initiatives throughout the life of the process.

**Issue**

Many of the statewide initiatives are ongoing, and interest is monitored by reviewing the number of applications received in response to individual RFAs. Statewide initiatives may be pilot programs, or long-standing programs that have continued to see an increase in applicants. Conversely, new initiatives tend to build interest in subsequent years.

Staff work hard to fund as many eligible, quality proposals as possible, and in some cases, there is more interest and demand for funds than funds available. In other cases, there are more funds obligated than demand for those funds. To that end, staff have made recommendations for increases and decreases for individual initiatives for consideration by the Commission. In addition, the Legislature has also made changes to some initiative amounts via rider, and those changes are reflected. Please note that the funding recommendations do not exceed the amount available in the Commission reserve.

**Decision Points**

The following charts reflects initiatives along with recommended increases and decreases for decision and approval by the Commissioners (items in green require approval):

Table 1 AEL

| **AEL** |
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| **Track Number & Initiative** | **Rationale** | **Increase/Decrease Requested** |
| 77001 Professional Development Center | Adding $50,000 from 77012 Leadership Excellence Academy to support CASAS implementation training from $1,977,140 to $2,317,140 | Increase - $340,000 |
| 77002 Learning Management System | Requesting actual cost of system so reducing funds from $200,000 to $158,500 | Decrease - $41,500 |
| 77003 AEL Provider Professional Development Distribution | Propose to move the funding from state leadership funds to core grant administration for 2020 | N/A |
| 77009 Distance Learning Mentoring Initiative | Zero out $500,000 in funding based on lack of need – recently funded two rounds | Decrease - $500,000 |
| 77010 Assessment and Standards Project | Zero out $215,000 in funding because initiative was completed | Decrease - $215,000 |
| 77012 Leadership Excellence Academy | $50,000 in funds moved to 77001 in support of CASAS implementation | N/A |
| 77013 Career Pathway Expansion | Recommending increase from $500,000 to $900,000 for contract renewal | Increase - $400,000 |
| 77016 Student Support Call Center | Need to approve an additional $260,000 for an RFP | Increase - $260,000 |
| 79016 Accelerate Texas | Recommend reduction from $2,800,000 to $2,000,000 because recently funded many grants and interested in using funds towards new initiatives | Decrease - $800,000 |

Table 2 Childcare

| **Childcare** |
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| **Track Number & Initiative** | **Rationale** | **Increase/Decrease Requested** |
| 76007 TRS Staff Support | Continue at higher level of funding $10,084,327 from $3,584,137 | Increase - $6,500,190 |
| 76013 Teacher Training Program CDA | Rider increased from $500000 to $750000 | N/A |
| 76026 Workforce Registry | $200,000 in carry forward funds already approved by Commissioners – no new funds needed  | N/A |
| 76028 Direct Care Contingency Fund | No longer needed as funds were assumed in allocation track | Reduce - $15,000,000 |
| 76031 TEA Reading Initiative | $75,000 for FY20 to support TEA’s Reading Initiative (renewal) | Increase - $75,000 |
| 76032 Reg. Early Childhood (RECESS) | $3.7 million per year previously approved by Commission over 3 years totaling $10 million | N/A |
| 76039 Infant/Toddler Collaborative Grants | $3 million in funds being carried forward for the RFA currently underway | N/A |
| 76042 Market Rate Survey | Award includes an allowable contractual increase within award and increases from $364,000 to $382,200 | Increase - $18,200 |

Table 3 TANF

| **TANF** |
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| **Track Number & Initiative** | **Rationale** | **Increase/Decrease Requested** |
| 75006 Foster Youth Workforce Transition Centers | Increase to $3,000,000 from $2,850,000 to cover annual foster youth conference costs and one additional transition center in Harlingen for $146,000 | Increase - $150,000 |
| 75016 Youth Robotics Initiative | Recommend increase to $1,500,000 to award 2 grants based on increased interest to support additional robotics teams | Increase - $500,000 |
| 75024 Camp Code for Girls | Recommend increase to Camp Code from $600,000 to $750,000 based on growing demand for grant awards | Increase - $150,000 |
| 75026 Workforce Career and Technical Education Specialist Pilot | Commission voted to fund additional applicants and this funding reflects that increase from $2,000,000 to $2,584,610 for year one with an additional $2,584,610 needed to fund year two | Increase - $584,610 |
| 75027 Texas Internship Initiative | Recommending reduced funding from $1,000,000 to $600,000 based on current demand  | Decrease - $400,000 |

Table 4 WIOA and Other

| **WIOA & Other** |
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| **Track Number & Initiative** | **Rationale** | **Increase/Decrease Requested** |
| 74005 Texas Science and Engineering Fair | Requested additional funding to support more robust fair at Texas A&M in 2020  | Increase - $50,000 |
| 74017 Veterans Network | Commission approved new statewide initiative in 2019 and RFA is underway | N/A |
| 74034 College Credit for Heroes | Total initiative approved at $1,400,0000 and $1,000,000 needed for grants and $300,000 moved to 74060 for portal development | Decrease - $400,000  |
| 74058 Building Construction Trades | Recommend increase to grant award to $1,800,000 from $830,000 based on current demand  | Increase - $970,000 |
| 74060 College Credit for Heroes Portal | $300,000 in funding moved from 74034 | N/A |
| 79RWY Red, White and You | Increase funding to $450,000 from $400,000 based on increasing demand and based on requests from Boards | Increase - $50,000 |
| 20043 Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) | Increase to $8,000,000 by Legislature - $4,000,000 for Institutions of Higher Education and $4,000,000 for Independent School Districts | N/A |
| Board Awards | Commission approved the removal of 4 awards including WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker, WIA Youth Award, TANF Award, and CCI/CCQ Conference Awards and add two new awards including Apprenticeship Expansion Award and WIOA Career Pathways | N/A |