

1 **Adult Education and Literacy Employer Engagement Request for Applications Approval**  
2 **Discussion Paper**  
3

4 **Background**

5 On August 17, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission  
6 (Commission) approved \$1.2 million for an Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Employer  
7 Engagement Initiative.

8 The AEL Employer Engagement initiative seeks grant recipients that will partner with employers  
9 to develop curricula for workplace programs and to deliver AEL services to eligible employees  
10 for workplace literacy activities and at least one of the following:

- 11 • Workplace literacy with employer-provided training
- 12 • Integrated Education and Training

13 The AEL Employer Engagement initiative is part of TWC’s comprehensive statewide strategy to  
14 end the middle skills gap in Texas. Due to technological advances in the workplace, employment  
15 demand has dramatically increased the need for middle-skilled workers, defined as workers with  
16 some education beyond high school but less than a four-year degree. This initiative aims to help  
17 put more Texas workers on a path to careers in rewarding middle skills jobs through  
18 collaboration with AEL grant recipients, AEL service providers, and Texas employers.

19 Texas Labor Code states in section 315.007(d) “...the members of the commission [must]  
20 approve the award of any funds under this chapter.”

21 **Issue**

22 The anticipated grant start date is July 2022, and three grant recipients have been recommended  
23 for awards totaling \$1,190,243. This amount is lower than the original budget of \$1,200,000 for  
24 the project, as proposed on August 17, 2021.

25 The following awards, totaling \$1,190,243, require the approval of the Commission:

- 26 • One grant award, totaling \$400,000
- 27 • One grant award, totaling \$390,243
- 28 • One grant award, totaling \$400,000

29 **Decision Point**

30 Staff recommends that the Commission approve the three awards totaling \$1,190,243, as  
31 outlined above.