

1 **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**
2 **Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers**
3 **Discussion Paper**
4

5 **Background**

6 The Central Texas Workforce Development Board (Board) was awarded a National Dislocated
7 Worker Grant (NDWG) by the US Department of Labor Employment and Training
8 Administration (DOLETA) on December 1, 2021. The funds are currently leveraged to provide
9 employment and training services to dislocated workers in the seven-county region served by the
10 Board. Participants in the dislocated worker program also include service members and military
11 spouses dislocated from Fort Cavazos US Army base. To date, the Board has served 1,285
12 individuals with this grant.

13 On August 30, 2023, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), on behalf of the Board, applied
14 for an Employment Recovery NDWG from DOLETA in the amount of \$7,953,881 to serve a
15 minimum of 1,252 dislocated workers during a 24-month period of performance. The primary
16 purpose of the project is to address the community impact of the dislocations that occurred over
17 the past year—including dislocations of service members and military spouses located at Fort
18 Cavazos—that have increased the number of unemployed individuals in Central Texas and
19 overburdened the workforce system.

20 **Issue**

21 During the application review process TWC responded to multiple requests for revisions from
22 the grant officer; however, DOLETA has not yet sent TWC a notice of approval. The Board must
23 continue providing services while the grant application process is underway.

24 Staff proposes that the Board use \$750,000 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
25 (WIOA) statewide funds during the four-month period, December 2023 through March 2024, to
26 provide training in target occupations and support services for new and currently enrolled
27 individuals. With the funding, the Board could serve 168 individuals with the following services:

- 28 • Career services and case management
- 29 • Career skills programs (CSPs)
- 30 • Relationship building with CSP staff

31 **Decision Point**

32 Staff recommends providing \$750,000 in additional WIOA statewide funds to the Board to
33 provide training in target occupations and support services for new and currently enrolled
34 individuals from December 2023 through March 2024.