

1 **Middle Skills Employment Supplies Pilot Project**
2 **Discussion Paper**
3

4 **Background**

5 The Workforce Solutions system offers a variety of supportive services to Texans enrolled in
6 WIOA services who are currently in training or seeking new employment. In communication
7 with a variety of partners, Texas Workforce Commission staff have identified an opportunity to
8 pilot an initiative to support Texans preparing to join the workforce but who are taking training
9 outside of current WIOA programs. Workforce Development Boards (Boards) will partner with
10 other non-profit and community programs and other state agencies that provide training and
11 certifications for middle skills occupations (requiring some education beyond high school but less
12 than a four-year degree), but that have limited or no funds to purchase tools or supplies that are
13 required by these occupations. Many employers, particularly in middle-skills industries, require
14 specific tools or supplies. Additionally, workers often need support services such as clothing,
15 transportation and childcare to accept an offer of employment. This program will provide funds
16 to Boards to assist these individuals by allowing the purchase of the specific items required by
17 the employer and support services needed.
18

19 **Issue**

20 Funds would be distributed to the Boards to partner with non-profit and community providers
21 and other state agencies that support training and certifications in middle-skills jobs. A Board's
22 current WIOA customers are also eligible for these funds, when a Board had obligated all
23 available client service funding and the customer has a letter of intent to hire. TWC places
24 emphasis on priority populations defined in the WIOA Guide and also individuals who are
25 incarcerated at local correctional facilities who are scheduled for release within 60 days to
26 support Texans that are re-entering the workforce post training.
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28 **Recommendations**

29 Staff recommends the commission approve the distribution of up to \$2 million dollars in WIOA
30 Statewide Funds, with a \$30,000 base amounts, to the boards to fund this Middle Skills
31 Employment Support Pilot Project. Boards will develop a form which collects all required
32 information to determine WIOA eligibility and will ensure that eligibility is documented within 2
33 business days of identified need. Eligibility for WIOA Statewide Funding includes:

- 34 • at least 18 years of age
 - 35 • authorized to work in the U.S., and
 - 36 • meets Selective Service requirements
- 37
38

1 Recommended distribution

<u>LWDA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount to be granted to Boards</u>
1	Panhandle	\$41,482
2	South Plains	\$43,730
3	North Texas	\$37,701
4	North Central	\$104,145
5	Tarrant County	\$103,260
6	Dallas	\$137,492
7	North East	\$43,895
8	East Texas	\$62,824
9	West Central	\$40,861
10	Upper Rio Grande	\$67,130
11	Permian Basin	\$55,829
12	Concho Valley	\$35,030
13	Heart of Texas	\$41,999
14	Capital Area	\$66,353
15	Rural Capital	\$53,430
16	Brazos Valley	\$41,065
17	Deep East Texas	\$52,986
18	Southeast Texas	\$61,178
19	Golden Crescent	\$37,108
20	Alamo	\$116,439
21	South Texas	\$44,693
22	Coastal Bend	\$61,749
23	Lower Rio Grande	\$119,235
24	Cameron County	\$61,396
25	Texoma	\$35,882
26	Central Texas	\$47,941
27	Middle Rio Grande	\$42,225
28	Gulf Coast	\$342,942
Total		\$2,000,000