

1 **TX-32 Disaster—Hurricane Harvey New Period of Performance, Funding Request, and**
2 **Waiver Discussion Paper**
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4 **Background**

5 On August 27, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast. In response, the US
6 Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$35 million in Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG)
7 funds to expedite disaster relief services in 41 Texas counties that were declared federal disaster
8 areas.
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10 To date, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has awarded grants totaling \$31,666,785 to
11 the eight Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) whose local workforce development
12 areas (workforce areas) include counties that were approved for federal public and individual
13 assistance. TWC continues to work closely with these workforce areas on Hurricane Harvey
14 rebuilding efforts.
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16 TWC and Boards have been in frequent contact throughout the grant period to determine when
17 additional funds might be needed to continue providing services. When a 70% expenditure
18 threshold is reached, TWC has the option to request additional funds from the Department of
19 Labor. The current grant award has expended 89% of the \$35,000,000 total.
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21 **Issues**

22 Deep East Texas, Southeast Texas, Golden Crescent and Coastal Bend Workforce Development
23 Boards have identified a need for additional DWG funding. The current grant has \$1,024,683 in
24 unobligated funds, and Boards project a need for an estimated \$1,873,000 to extend these grant
25 awards for an additional year through December 2020. These grant funds enable participants to
26 secure temporary employment in two areas including humanitarian assistance and clean-up and
27 recovery activities. To date, 821 Texans have been employed at 162 worksites in support of
28 disaster recovery, and local employers indicate an ongoing and critical need to continue
29 employment for 261 participants at 49 worksites.
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31 In addition to the additional funds needed, TWC asked and received a waiver to allow
32 participants to extend temporary employment for an additional 12 months, but no more than
33 4,160 hours total. TWC will need to request another waiver to extend temporary employment for
34 an additional 12 months, but no more than 6,240 hours to allow participants to continue the
35 important work of recovery. Some examples of the types of work these participants are doing
36 include construction laborer, public works assistant, case manager, and warehouse administrator.
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38 Additional time, funds, and a waiver request are needed to complete identified disaster relief
39 activities in these communities.
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Board Area	Current Award Amount	Current Expenditures	Projected Award Amount	Funding Recommendation Using Unobligated Balance	Total New Funding Request to DOL
Deep East Texas	\$2,134,000	78.20%	\$2,384,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
Southeast Texas	\$5,073,000	98.20%	\$5,466,000	\$393,000*	\$0
Golden Crescent	\$2,001,000	75.77%	\$2,131,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Coastal Bend	\$7,133,000	82.81%	\$8,233,000	\$441,683	\$658,317
State Administration	\$529,206	\$341,682	N/A	N/A	\$151,683
				\$1,024,683	\$1,000,000

5 *Note: Southeast will not require any additional funds

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7 **Decision Point**

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9 Staff seeks approval on two items:

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- Approval for awarding the current unobligated balance of \$1,024,683 for 4 Boards to continue implementing Harvey Disaster DWG-funded strategies;
- Approval to move forward a grant modification request to DOL including:
 - a 12-month Period of Performance modification through December 2020 from DOL;
 - an additional \$1,000,000 from DOL to support a third year of grant implementation;
 - a waiver of the maximum number of hours worked in temporary disaster relief employment to enable workers to continue support for the recovery of their communities.

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