

1 **TX-34 DISASTER – COVID-19 – ADDITIONAL DISASTER DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING FOR BOARDS**
2 **DISCUSSION PAPER**
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4 **Background**

5 On April 16, 2020 the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$12,000,000 in Disaster Dislocated Worker
6 Grant (DDWG) funds to expedite disaster relief services in Texas, and on September 29, TWC received
7 an additional \$27,685,179 for a total of \$39,685,179 to serve a minimum of 2,042 Texans. Of the 28
8 Workforce Development Boards (Boards), 16 have been participating in this DDWG to serve individuals
9 and communities impacted by this pandemic.

10 **Issue**

11 DDWGs are supplemental resources that provide flexibility in responding and recovering from
12 disasters, and DOL expects these grants to be aligned with existing state/local priorities, resources, and
13 programs. DDWGs provide disaster-relief and humanitarian assistance employment, as well as career
14 and training services, and support services, as appropriate, to minimize the employment and economic
15 impact of declared disasters and emergency situations, in disaster-declared areas.

- 16 • *Career and Training Services.* Grant participants who are unlikely to return to their prior
17 employment may receive assessment and case management services and job placement
18 assistance. Those who require upskilling to return to work in a local demand occupation and
19 may also receive short-term training. Participants will receive career and training services to
20 assist with reentry into the workforce and upskilling into demand jobs.
- 21 • *Support services.* One or more support services such as transportation assistance, uniforms or
22 other appropriate work attire, personal protective equipment, training supplies or others
23 enable participants to participate in all services provided during the grant.
- 24 • *Disaster-relief employment.* A required service in the DDWG is Disaster Relief employment. DOL
25 guidance indicates that these jobs must be made available to provide disaster-relief and
26 humanitarian assistance employment to minimize the employment and economic impact of
27 declared disasters and emergency situations. Participants will be placed in disaster relief
28 employment opportunities and while earning a wage and providing valuable services to
29 thousands of Texans.

30 To date, Boards have over \$1.4 mi. in expenditures, have enrolled 483 participants with 289
31 participants in temporary employment as contact tracers, food bank workers and drivers delivering
32 needed medications. Participants served and original funding amounts have been adjusted for each
33 Board to reflect the additional funding from DOL in the chart below.

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41 The recommended amounts for each Board grant are reflected below:

Boards	Current Participants	Original Board Grant	Proposed number of additional participants	New Proposed Grant Amounts
Alamo	122	\$1,302,401	255	\$4,859,231
Borderplex	49	\$530,790	110	\$2,096,139
Brazos Valley	24	\$265,395	60	\$1,143,348
Cameron	18	\$192,903	48	\$914,679
Capital Area	122	\$1,302,401	255	\$4,859,231
Coastal Bend	39	\$73,721	80	\$1,524,465
East Texas	49	\$555,363	110	\$2,096,139
Greater Dallas	122	\$1,302,401	69	\$1,314,851
Gulf Coast	122	\$1,302,401	255	\$4,859,231
Lower Rio Grande Valley	25	\$245,638	36	\$686,009
Middle Rio Grande Valley	49	\$530,790	110	\$2,096,139
Panhandle	30	\$313,313	72	\$1,372,018
Rural Capital Area	61	\$638,914	134	\$2,553,478
South Plains	49	\$555,363	110	\$2,096,139
Southeast Texas	36	\$385,806	84	\$1,600,688
Tarrant County	122	\$1,302,401	254	\$4,840,175
	1039	\$10,800,000	2042	38,911,957*

*TWC held back \$773,222 for grant administration

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4 Grants will be amended quickly to ensure Boards can continue providing grant services, and staff will
5 continue to bring regular updates to the Commission on the progress of these awards.

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7 **Recommendation**

8 Staff seeks approval from the Commission on the use of an additional \$27,685,179 for a total of
9 \$39,685,179 to serve a minimum of 2,042 Texans through the Disaster Dislocated Worker Grants with
10 16 Boards.

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