**TX-32 Disaster—Hurricane Harvey New Funding Requests**

**Discussion Paper**

**Background**

On August 27, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast. In response, the US Department of Labor (DOL) awarded $30 million in Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) funds to expedite disaster relief services in 41 Texas counties that were declared federal disaster areas.

To date, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has approved and awarded grants totaling $26,450,024 to the eight Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) whose local workforce development areas (workforce areas) include counties that were approved for federal public and individual assistance. TWC continues to work closely with these workforce areas on Hurricane Harvey rebuilding efforts.

TWC and Boards have been in frequent contact throughout the grant period to determine when additional funds might be needed to continue providing services.

**Issues**

The Southeast Workforce Development Board has expressed an urgent need for additional DWG funding. As of January 7, 2018, Southeast has expended 88% percent of its $3,563,000 in DWG funds. Additional funds are needed immediately so they can continue to provide disaster relief to their communities.

These funds will continue temporary employment through the end of the grant for 231 participants in the Southeast region. These resources are supporting a wide variety of jobs in long-term economic recovery including clean-up and humanitarian efforts.

Gulf Coast Board will still receive $1,600,000 of the recently approved $2,500,000, and the remaining funds will be used for the Southeast request.

**Decision Point**

Staff seeks direction on approval for:

* $900,000 in funding for Southeast to continue providing services to Harvey-impacted participants.
* Reduce previously approved Gulf Coast Board from $2,500,000 to $1,600,000 to accommodate the Southeast increase.