1 2	Rider 47 Foundational Skills for Construction Career Pathways Discussion Paper
3	Background
4	House Bill 1, General Appropriations Act, Rider 47, Texas Legislature 86th Regular Session
5	requires that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) form collaborative partnerships with
6	organizations who have expertise in workforce development and training and are in and serve
7	urban centers in the state to provide industry-specific employment readiness training. This
8	program will meet all requirements of Rider 47 and focus on foundational skills for construction
9	career pathways with curricula that consists of basic safety, introduction to construction math,
10	introduction to power and hand tools, basic communication skills, and basic employability skills
11	The courses provide the industry basics so that participants are ready to move into a specific
12	construction career pathway upon completion.
13	The funding source for this program is Texas Labor Code, Chapter 303, Skills Development Fund
14	as appropriated through the General Appropriations Act, Rider 47, Texas Legislature, 86th
15	Regular Session.
16	Issue
17	The State of Texas continues to have a high-demand for skilled workers in the construction
18	industry. This program will address this high-demand by awarding grants to eligible entities
19	with an accreditation from the National Center for Construction Education and Research
20	(NCCER). NCCER provides standardized and quality job readiness training for individuals
21	receiving construction training and moving up and along construction career pathways. Entities
22	will provide industry-specific employment readiness training in Fiscal Years 20 and 21.
23	Eligible applicants for the Foundational Skills for Construction Career Pathways Program include
24	organizations who:

• are exempt from federal income taxation;

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- are composed of individuals or groups of individuals with who have expertise in
 workforce development and training;
 - are located in and serve urban centers in the State of Texas;
 - are training sponsors accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research;
 - provide industry-specific employment readiness training;
 - provide a basic introduction to industry skills with curricula consisting of industryspecific modules that cover various trade skills topics, including basic safety and OSHA compliance, industry- or trade-specific math training, industry- or tradespecific tools training, basic communication skills, and basic employability skills;
 - target minority groups in underserved communities; and,
 - have proven experience in administering training programs described herein through contracting with state agencies or political subdivisions.
- 14 Eligible participants are Texas residents ages 18 or older, U.S. citizens or certified to work in the
- 15 U.S.

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16 Recommendation

- 17 Staff seeks Commission approval to publish a Request for Applications (RFA) for the
- 18 Foundational Skills for Construction Career Pathways program using the criteria outlined in the
- 19 Rider to expend \$250,000 in grant awards in each year of the biennium for a total award of
- 20 \$500,000 to train eligible participants.