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*Exceptional Item Request for 2022 and 2023 LAR*

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Commissioner Alvarez would like to propose \$1,500,000 of GR for development and implementation of both youth and adult **Pre-apprenticeship Career Pathways** into Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs. Texas Education Code Chapter 133 statute allows for pre-apprenticeship training leading to related classroom training for apprentices.

Apprentices are full time paid employees in the private sector, impacting not only the apprentice's life but the Texas economy. Pre-apprenticeship places both youth and adults on a career pathway with built in advancement to salaries in excess of \$60,000 annually.

Pre-apprenticeship can be key in preparing both youth and adults for highly skilled, highly paid careers in a wide variety of industries and their apprenticeable occupations. Pre-apprenticeship programs provide students with stackable credentials upon completion which allows them to continue studies at a community college setting or Registered Apprenticeship training program. This initiative will support the higher education goals of Texas 60x30 and the TriAgency work by ensuring that 60% of Texans between the ages of 25-34 attain certificates or degrees by 2030, ensure students graduate with marketable skills and minimal student loan debt.

In the first year the requested allocation would be \$500,000 and \$1 million the second year. Dividing up the funding in this manner would allow the TWC Apprenticeship team to ramp up.

Year 1 would train 500 apprentices

Year 2 would train 500 apprentices (for a total of 1000 apprentices).