

1 **TX-34 DISASTER – COVID-19 – FUNDS FOR BOARDS**

2 **DISCUSSION PAPER**

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4 **Background**

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6 Governor Greg Abbott declared Texas a disaster site for all 254 counties on March 13, 2020, in
7 response to the COVID-19 pandemic. TWC is experiencing an exponential increase in UI claims and a
8 demand for workforce services across the state.

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10 On April 16, 2020 the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded \$12,000,000 in Disaster Dislocated Worker
11 Grant (DDWG) funds to expedite disaster relief services in Texas in response to a \$67 mi. emergency
12 request submitted by TWC on March 25, 2020.

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14 Of the 28 Workforce Development Boards (Boards), 16 have requested assistance through this DDWG
15 to serve individuals and communities impacted by this pandemic.

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17 **Issue**

18 DDWGs are supplemental resources that provide flexibility responding and recovering during disasters,
19 and DOL expects these grants to be aligned with existing state/local priorities, resources, and
20 programs. Funds should be used to design and carry out projects in coordination with existing disaster
21 efforts including Rapid Response, layoff aversion, WIOA formula-funded activities, business
22 engagement efforts, and other activities that demonstrate intent to maximize positive outcomes for
23 Texas participants

24 DDWGs provide disaster-relief and humanitarian assistance employment, as well as employment and
25 training services, as appropriate, to minimize the employment and economic impact of declared
26 disasters and emergency situations, in disaster-declared areas.

27 DDWG funds provide two types of employment and training services to dislocated workers and other
28 eligible participants including:

- 29 *1) Clean up and Recovery efforts specific to this public health emergency may include: 1) cleaning*
30 *schools or sanitizing quarantine or treatment areas after their use; and, 2) preventative*
31 *measures such as setting up quarantines, cleaning buildings, and other activities that avoid the*
32 *further spread of the virus.*
- 33
- 34 *2) Humanitarian assistance generally includes actions designed to save lives, alleviate suffering,*
35 *and maintain human dignity in the immediate aftermath of disasters and may include: 1)*
36 *delivering medicine, food, or other supplies to older individuals and other individuals with*
37 *respiratory conditions and other chronic medical disorders, with appropriate training and*
38 *precautions; 2) helping set up quarantine areas and aiding quarantined individuals; and, 3)*

1 organizing and coordinating recovery, quarantine, or other related activities such as the
 2 provision of food, clothing, and shelter.

3 Boards are also encouraged to provide supportive services, career services, and training services, as
 4 needed.

5 1) *Supportive Services* – enable individuals to participate in the DWG project activities. As
 6 examples these services may include assistance with transportation, assistance with uniforms
 7 or other appropriate work attire, personal protective equipment, assistance with training
 8 supplies and more.

9 2) *Career Services* – may include outreach, intake, labor exchange services, initial and
 10 comprehensive assessments, referrals, provision of labor market information, provision of
 11 information on eligible training providers, and provision of information on the availability of
 12 supportive services

13 3) *Training Services* – for those grant participants who are unlikely to return to their prior
 14 employment. DWG funds may provide employment and training services independently or
 15 concurrently with participation in the temporary jobs component.

16 Boards shared their employment and training strategies with TWC as well as the number of
 17 participants they anticipated serving through this grant. TWC determined a maximum cost per
 18 participant of \$11,800 for disaster relief employment and career training services. Participants served
 19 and funding amounts were then reduced proportionately for each Board based on funds received from
 20 DOL. The recommended amounts for each Board grant are reflected below:

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Boards Participating in the Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant	Disaster Relief Employment Only	Disaster Relief Employment and Career Training	Career Training Only	Total Participants	Board Subaward Amount
Alamo	122	0	0	122	\$1,302,401
Borderplex	25	24	0	49	\$530,790
Brazos Valley	12	12	0	24	\$265,395
Cameron	12	0	6	18	\$192,903
Capital Area	100	0	50	150	\$1,302,401
Coastal Bend	0	0	34	34	\$73,721
East Texas	13	24	12	49	\$555,363
Greater Dallas	73	49	0	122	\$1,302,401
Gulf Coast	73	49	0	122	\$1,302,401
Lower Rio Grande Valley	25	0	0	25	\$245,638
Middle Rio Grande Valley	0	39	10	49	\$530,790
Panhandle	24	0	6	30	\$313,313
Rural Capital Area	44	17	0	61	\$638,914
South Plains	12	37	0	49	\$555,363
Southeast Texas	24	0	12	36	\$385,806

Tarrant County	73	49	0	122	\$1,302,401
Board Totals	632	300	130	1062	\$10,800,000
TWC Administration Funds					\$1,200,000
Grand Total for Funds					\$12,000,000

Note: All categories may include support services as appropriate.

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2 Grants will be awarded quickly to ensure Boards can begin providing grant services immediately, and
3 staff will bring regular updates to the Commission on the progress of these awards.

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5 **Recommendation**

6 Staff seeks approval from the Commission on the use of \$12 mi. in Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant
7 funds for 16 Boards.

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