

1                   **TX-36 DISASTER - DISASTER DISLOCATED WORKER GRANT (DDWG) FUNDING FOR**  
2                   **BOARDS IMPACTED BY WINTER STORMS**  
3                   **DISCUSSION PAPER**  
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5   **Background**

6   On March 5, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) applied for a Disaster Dislocated  
7   Worker Grant (DDWG) to expedite disaster relief services as a result of the severe winter  
8   storms that occurred during February 2021. On April 1, 2021, the Department of Labor (DOL)  
9   conditionally awarded \$3,120,612 in grant funds to address the identified need. Nine Boards have  
10   indicated a need for services to respond to the effects of the winter storms. Some of the needs  
11   identified include the removal of landscape debris and vegetation from frozen trees, which will  
12   include skilled labor and drivers to remove the debris and assistance with the coordination of  
13   services for low income individuals seeking disaster assistance to repair damage caused by frozen  
14   water pipes and replacement of appliances or other home electrical systems due to rolling  
15   blackouts.

16   **Issue**

17   DDWGs are supplemental resources that provide flexibility in responding and recovering from  
18   disasters, and DOL expects these grants to be aligned with existing state/local priorities,  
19   resources, and programs. DDWGs provide disaster-relief clean up and recovery and  
20   humanitarian assistance employment, as well as career and training services, and support  
21   services, as appropriate, to minimize the employment and economic impact of declared  
22   disasters and emergency situations, in disaster-declared areas.

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- 24       • *Career and Training Services.* Grant participants who are unlikely to return to  
25       their prior employment may receive assessment and case management services  
26       and job placement assistance. Those who require upskilling to return to work in a  
27       local demand occupation and may also receive short-term training. Participants will  
28       receive career and training services to assist with reentry into the workforce and  
29       upskilling into demand jobs.
  - 30       • *Support services.* One or more support services such as transportation assistance,  
31       uniforms or other appropriate work attire, personal protective equipment,  
32       training supplies or others enable participants to participate in all services  
33       provided during the grant.
  - 34       • *Disaster-relief employment.* A required service in the DDWG is Disaster Relief  
35       employment. DOL guidance indicates that these jobs must be made available to  
36       provide disaster-relief clean up and recovery and humanitarian assistance  
37       employment to minimize the employment and economic impact of declared  
38       disasters and emergency situations. Participants will be placed in disaster relief  
39       employment opportunities and while earning a wage and providing valuable  
40       services to thousands of Texans.  
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42 The recommended planned participants to be served and funding amounts for each Board are  
 43 in the chart below.

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Boards	Proposed number of participants**	Proposed number of participants in Disaster Relief Employment	Proposed number of participants to receive Employment and Training Services	Proposed Grant Amounts**
Alamo	12	12	8	\$233,333
Deep East Texas	6	6	0	\$113,333
East Texas	4	4	0	\$80,000
Greater Dallas	46	0	46	\$331,000
Gulf Coast	75	42	33	\$1,066,667
Lower Rio Grande Valley	22	22	0	\$347,828
Middle Rio Grande Valley	48	48	0	\$172,850
North Central	25	2	20	\$293,667
Southeast Texas	17	17	0	\$333,333
	<b>254</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$2,972,011</b>

45 \*TWC will hold back \$148,601 for grant administration

46 \*\*Please note that the number of participants to be served and grant amounts may be adjusted to meet local needs

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48 Grants will be quickly executed to ensure Boards can begin providing grant services and staff  
 49 will bring regular updates to the Commission on the progress of these awards. The period of  
 50 performance is 2 years with grants starting on April 01, 2021 (or once approved by Commission)  
 51 thru March 31, 2023.

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53 **Recommendation**

54 Staff seeks approval from the Commission on the use of \$3,120,612 to serve a minimum of 254  
 55 Texans through Disaster Dislocated Worker Grants with 9 Boards.

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