

1 **Staff Responses to Commission Work Session Discussion Paper**
2 **Foster Youth Network**

3 **Commission Recommendations**

- 4 1. Seeking approval for staff to bring forward a formal initiative for a Texas Foster Youth
5 Network. The Texas Foster Youth Network initiative will support the development of a
6 statewide network composed of organizations whose missions includes providing
7 services and support to Foster Youth and former Foster Youth (for example, Texas
8 Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), other Community-Based
9 Organizations (CBOs), Local Workforce Development Boards, and other entities) as well
10 as to create opportunities to share referral and service information that will allow for
11 coordination of services.
12 2. Set aside an amount up to \$4 million dollars to be awarded during Fiscal Year 2025.

13 **Workforce Development Response**

- 14 1. Staff recommends designating \$4 million in combined Temporary Assistance for Needy
15 Families (TANF) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) statewide
16 funds to: Procure a platform, including a mobile option, that provides access and referral
17 services for foster youth. Establish a method for collecting and sharing data (ensuring the
18 data system is secure).

19 **Additional Items to Consider**

- 20 1. Programs should conduct a landscape analysis, engage existing member organizations,
21 and invite new partners to collaborate.
22 2. Coordinate with existing federal, state, and local government agencies to ensure
23 collaboration is achieved and duplication is avoided.