

1 Texas Veterans Network Extension
2 Discussion Paper

3 **Background**

4 In May 2022, Texas Workforce Commission's three-member commission (Commission) approved use of
5 Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act (WIOA) Statewide funds to publish a request for
6 applications (RFA) to continue to build a statewide network of Veterans Coordinators.

7 The successful respondent for [RFA #3202300073](#), Combined Arms, launched the Texas Veterans
8 Network (TVN) on April 1, 2023, and continues to provide services and supports to veterans across the
9 state.

10 Referrals provided through the TVN link veterans to vital services that include:

- 11 • assistance with financial and legal matters,
- 12 • participation in career and education programs,
- 13 • connections to veteran benefits and programs, and
- 14 • assistance in meeting basic needs such as food and housing.

15 **Issues**

16 At its August 20, 2024, meeting, the Commission approved an [Exceptional Item](#) (EI) requesting General
17 Revenue (GR) funding for the TVN. The EI cited changes in federal funding requirements that may
18 impact use of WIOA statewide funding and the need to continue the TVN without disruption.

19 The contract with Combined Arms expires March 31, 2025. Discontinuing services while awaiting
20 passage of the General Appropriations Act would have a detrimental effect on services to Texas veterans
21 and could lead to increased costs associated with restarting services later. Staff recommend an extension
22 of the current contract with Combined Arms to allow the 89th Texas Legislature to consider funding the
23 TVN. This extension ensures uninterrupted services and supports to veterans as future funding sources
24 for the TVN are identified.

25 **Decision Point**

26 Staff recommend use of \$425,000 in WIOA Statewide funds for a five-month extension of its contract
27 with Combined Arms for continuation of the Texas Veterans Network.