**TX-32 Disaster—Hurricane Harvey New Funding Requests**

**Discussion Paper**

**Background**

On August 27, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast. In response, the US Department of Labor (DOL) awarded $30 million in Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) funds to expedite disaster relief services in 41 Texas counties that were declared federal disaster areas.

To date, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has approved and awarded grants totaling $22,950,024 to the eight Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) whose local workforce development areas (workforce areas) include counties that were approved for federal public and individual assistance. TWC continues to work closely with these workforce areas on Hurricane Harvey rebuilding efforts.

TWC and Boards have been in frequent contact throughout the grant period to determine when additional funds might be needed to continue providing services.

**Issues**

The Gulf Coast and Coastal Bend Workforce Development Boards have expressed a need for additional DWG funding. As of December 3, 2018, Gulf Coast has expended 80.79% of its $10,531,000 in DWG funds, and Coastal Bend has expended 74.98% of its $4,633,000 in DWG funds. Additional funds are needed to continue providing disaster relief to their communities.

The current grant has $3,525,873 in unobligated funds, and should this funding be approved, the remaining balance will be $25,873. Both Boards have indicated that they have additional needs beyond the current grant award. Gulf Coast anticipates needing an additional $2,500,000, and Coastal Bend anticipates needing an additional $1,900,000. These funds will continue temporary employment through the end of the grant for 227 participants in the Gulf Coast region, and 108 participants in Coastal Bend. These resources are supporting a wide variety of jobs in long-term economic recovery including clean-up and humanitarian efforts.

**Decision Point**

Staff seeks direction on two items:

* approve an additional $2,500,000 for Gulf Coast and an additional $1,000,000 in funding for Coastal Bend to continue implementing Harvey DWG-funded strategies;
* approval to move forward in requesting an additional $5,000,000 from DOL and a three (3) month period of performance extension to ensure that all programmatic needs are met.