

1 **Funding for Information Technology Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Program**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 On November 10, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) three-member Commission
5 (Commission) approved the use of \$3 million in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6 (WIOA) Statewide reserve funds for an information Technology (IT) Registered Apprenticeship
7 Expansion Program.

8 Following Commission approval, technical assistance discussions with the Agency's designated
9 State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) federal project officer led TWC Apprenticeship staff to
10 find innovations and opportunities in its implementation of the federal SAE grant, particularly in
11 achieving the grant's goals and in strengthening system alignment.

12 **Issue**

13 While SAE grants do not require a match, the US Department of Labor encourages states to
14 maximize the use of resources and minimize duplication of efforts through building partnerships,
15 aligning systems, and leveraging federal and non-federal sources.

16 To optimize resource utilization, it is proposed that \$1.5 million of the State's SAE grant funds
17 be used in tandem with \$1.5 million of WIOA Statewide funds, thereby:

- 18 • preserving the \$3 million base allocation for the IT Registered Apprenticeship Expansion
19 Program, and
- 20 • returning \$1.5 million in WIOA Statewide funds to the Commission Reserve.

21 As of April 28, 2021, the WIOA Statewide Reserve is \$7,823,388. This amount does not include
22 the \$1.5 million staff propose to return to the reserve.

23 **Decision Point**

24 Staff seeks direction in returning \$1.5 million to the WIOA Statewide Reserve and replacing that
25 \$1.5 million with SAE grant funds. If approved, the IT Registered Apprenticeship Expansion
26 Program will maintain the originally-approved funding level of \$3 million as follows:

- 27 • \$1.5 million WIOA Statewide Reserve
- 28 • \$1.5 million SAE grant