

1 **Adult Education and Literacy Accelerate VI Request for Applications Approval**
2 **Discussion Paper**
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4 **Background**

5 Accelerate Texas VI seeks applicants that will create Integrated Education and Training (IET)
6 Career Pathway models to help Basic Skills Deficient (BSD) individuals by providing concurrent
7 enrollment in Workforce Training and AEL services. The purpose of this Request for
8 Application (RFA) is to solicit applications to design and deliver quality IET programs that
9 address the educational needs of priority populations such as BSD individuals, English language
10 learners (ELLs), and those without high school credentials. A secondary purpose of Accelerate
11 Texas VI is to demonstrate and disseminate effective and innovative models statewide that
12 expand Texas’ capacity to deliver quality IET services for BSD individuals. Grant awards may
13 develop and provide:

- 14 • expansion and targeted enhancement of existing IET models;
- 15 • IET designs that develop ESL curriculum contextualized for the workforce training that
16 enable ELLs to simultaneously accelerate learning, increase language proficiency, and
17 enter employment;
- 18 • ability-to-benefit (ATB) coenrollment models, as outlined in the Dear Colleague Letter
19 (DCL) ID: GEN-16-09, for individuals without a high school credential;
- 20 • innovative IET models responsive to distancing protocols, remote instruction, and/or
21 virtual training environments designed to maximize support for individuals with little or
22 no access to technology in their home environments; and
- 23 • alignment with other core programs to serve common customers for coenrollment in
24 collaboration with Local Workforce Development Boards; the Texas workforce system;
25 employers; and other community partners, including institutions of higher education in
26 order to create and expand pipelines and IET services to BSD individuals.

27 AEL legislation from the 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2019), HB 1949 and Rider
28 46, states that “... all grant applications and awards for the Adult Education and Family Literacy
29 program shall be reviewed and approved by TWC’s Commissioners prior to notification of
30 award to the grant recipient.”

31 **Issue**

32 The anticipated grant start date is July 2021, and four winners have been recommended for a
33 total award of \$2,008,677. This amount is higher than the original budget of \$2 million for the
34 project, as proposed on July 28, 2020.

35 The following awards, totaling \$2,008,677, await the approval of the Texas Workforce
36 Commission’s three-member Commission (Commission):

- 37 • One grant award, totaling \$520,248
- 38 • One grant award, totaling \$532,741
- 39 • One grant award, totaling \$205,688
- 40 • One grant award, totaling \$750,000

41 **Decision Point:**

42 Staff seeks consideration and Commission approval of one of two options:

43 Option 1 Commission Approval of:

- 44 • the addition of \$8,677 to the budgeted amount for this RFA; and
- 45 • the four grant awards.

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47 Option 2 Commission Approval of:

- 48 • Fully funding the highest scoring applicant, and awarding the second highest scoring
- 49 applicants, which scored in a three way tie, an amount .5829% lower than their requested
- 50 budget amount. As a result, the four awards will be as follows, equal to \$2,000,000the
- 51 original approved budget:

- 52 ○ \$520,248

- 53 ○ \$529,635

- 54 ○ \$204,489

- 55 ○ \$745,628

- 56 • The four awards as revised.

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