

1 **Second Chance Event**
2 **Discussion Paper**
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4 **Background**

5 On December 1, 2020, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) accepted a private one-time donation
6 from IKEA US Community Foundation to support a variety of TWC initiatives to help Texans and Texas
7 businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

8 On August 31, 2021, Commissioner Julian Alvarez stated before the Commission that he would like staff
9 to explore utilizing the remaining IKEA funds to host a second chance roundtable event and invite
10 employers, economic development corporations and training providers. The purpose of this event will
11 be to provide information to employers about the value of hiring second chance individuals to fill gaps in
12 their workforce caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

13 **Issue**

14 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, employers have continued to struggle with filling their vacant positions.
15 The second chance community is an accessible group of capable individuals that can fill these vacant
16 positions. However, employers need to be aware of the support and services available to them in regard
17 to hiring individuals within the second chance community.

18 The event proposed by Commissioner Alvarez will provide information to employers about TWC
19 programs such as fidelity bonding, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Adult Education and Literacy, and
20 Registered Apprenticeships. The event will highlight TWC grant opportunities and showcase examples
21 of collaboration to assist the second chance population across the state of Texas as well. TWC will also
22 collaborate with organizations such as statewide business associations, chambers, and economic
23 development organizations to enhance the reach of the event.

24 Staff anticipate this event will involve costs for the following:

- 25 • Venue
- 26 • Promotional/Outreach Materials
- 27 • Light Refreshments

28 **Decision Point**

29 Staff seek direction on using up to \$50,000 of the remaining IKEA funds to plan, promote, and hold the
30 roundtable event on employing second chance individuals, as described above.