

1 **Short-Term Training for Parents in the Child Care Services Program**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 On June 15, 2021, the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission
5 (Commission) approved a temporary waiver of TWC Chapter 809 Child Care Services rule
6 §809.41(a)(3)(B) to provide additional flexibility—allowable under federal Child Care and
7 Development Block Grant law and regulations—to support families that do not meet the activity
8 requirements when child care eligibility is determined. This waiver allows for an initial three
9 months of child care with zero parent share of cost, during which time these parents must
10 become employed to remain eligible for child care services.

11 On June 30, 2021, as part of a comprehensive statewide strategy to end the middle skills gap in
12 Texas, the Commission earmarked \$2 million for an initiative to provide short-term training to
13 parents in the Child Care Services (CCS) program.

14 On September 21, 2021, the Commission approved the funding type and distribution amounts to
15 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) for providing WIOA short-term training
16 services to parents of children receiving CCS subsidies, specifically parents in an initial three-
17 month job search period.

18 **Issue**

19 This initiative has been limited to training programs that are one to four weeks in duration. While
20 programs on the Eligible Training Providers List range widely in occupation and duration,
21 Boards have found it difficult to find short-term training programs that both fit within the one-to-
22 four-week duration requirement and are available for parents during their initial three-month job
23 search period. Therefore, Boards are struggling to spend the funds and serve these parents.
24 Through February 2022, of the \$2 million distributed, only \$569 has been expended. Expanding
25 the definition of “short-term training” for this initiative to include any training program lasting
26 three months or less, as originally proposed in the June 30, 2021, Commission work session,
27 would enable Boards to place more parents in effective training.

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29 The grant is set to expire September 30, 2022. Extending the grant for one year will allow the
30 Boards to serve more CCS parents.

31 **Decision Point**

32 Staff provides the following recommendations regarding the Short-Term Training for Parents in
33 the Child Care Services Program initiative:

- 34 • That the definition of “short-term training” be expanded to include any training that is less
35 than three months in duration in order to broaden the range of eligible training programs for
36 this initiative
37 • That the grant be extended to May 31, 2023, to allow Boards to serve more CCS parents