

1 **Youth Robotics**  
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 On July 5, 2022, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) approved \$2.1 million in Temporary  
5 Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for the Youth Robotics initiative. The Youth  
6 Robotics initiative encourages interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)  
7 careers by expanding statewide participation in robotics programs in grades 9 through 12 by:

- 8 • developing new teams for robotics education competitions; and
- 9 • supporting existing competitive robotics education teams (that is, teams that have already  
10 competed in a competitive high school robotics competition).

11 **Issue**

12 On December 15, 2022, TWC issued the Youth Robotics Request for Applications 32023-00097.  
13 The number of eligible applicants who responded and qualified for a grant award exceeded the  
14 \$2.1 million reserved for the Youth Robotics initiative in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY'23) operating  
15 budget.

16 **Recommendation**

17 Staff recommends that TWC's three-member Commission fully fund Youth Robotics initiative  
18 grant recipients by increasing the amount of TANF reserve funds in the FY'23 operating budget  
19 for this initiative from \$2.1 million to \$2,335,830.