

1 **Discussion Paper**  
2 **Chapter 838. Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program**  
3 **Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Application**

4 **Background**

5 In 2019, House Bill 2784, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, amended Chapter 302 of the  
6 Texas Labor Code by adding Subchapter I to create the Texas Industry-Recognized  
7 Apprenticeship (TIRA) Programs Grant Program. The grant program’s purpose is to address  
8 Texas’ immediate industrial workforce needs resulting from the impact of hurricanes, other  
9 natural disasters, and overall workforce shortages.

10 At the August 22, 2023, meeting, Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC’s) three-member  
11 Commission approved the acceptance of applications from private sector employers that  
12 represent industries in the state’s 25 target occupations.

13 At the October 31, 2023, meeting, Commissioners approved final rules for Chapter 838, Texas  
14 Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program. The rules took effect November  
15 20, 2023.

16 **Issue**

17 There is approximately \$9,876,000 available for the TIRA Grant Program for fiscal year 2024  
18 (FY ’24). Prior to publication of the application, parameters for the FY’24 TIRA Grant Program  
19 should be established. The guidance is in accordance with Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)  
20 Rule §838.12. Notice of Grant Availability and Application.

21 **Decisions Points**

22 To ensure strong growth of new apprenticeship programs in Texas, staff recommend the  
23 following:

- 24 • An applicant must not have received apprenticeship-related funding made available  
25 through TWC in FY ’24.
- 26 • The cost per participant will be:
  - 27 ○ near or equal to costs listed for comparable training programs on the Statewide  
28 Eligible Training Provider List or,
  - 29 ○ when costs are justified, up to \$7,500 per participant.