#### **Adult Education and Literacy**

#### AEL Local Performance Quality Improvement Funds-78014

- In order to announce these new awards in FY16 for awarding in FY17, staff are requesting approval for increases in FY17 as follows:
- Increase the total amount from \$225,000 to \$980,000
- Establish a new award for High School Equivalence Test Completion in the amount of \$500,000
- Establish a new award for Federal Core Outcome Measures in the amount of \$225,000
- Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

### • Workforce Integration Initiative-77005

• Increase the amount from \$240,000 to \$840,000 (\$30,000/LWDA)

#### Accelerate Texas-79016

• Modify the method of finance to fund all of the initiative with AEL funding, rather than with a portion of WIA funding

### • Pell Grant Ability to Benefit Capacity Expansion-77015 new initiative

- Establish a new initiative to support building the capacity of colleges to implement the new Pell guidance on Ability to Benefit in the amount of \$500,000
- Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

#### • Student Support Call Center-77016 new initiative

- Establish a new initiative to establish a call center to support students engaged in distance learning in the amount of \$500,000
- Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

#### **Child Care**

#### Professional Development for Early Childhood Education-76013

• Dedicate \$500,000 authorized under Rider 30 to support Professional Development Scholarships for Early Childhood Professionals

#### **Employment Services**

#### Red, White and You Veterans Job Fair-79FWY

• Increase the amount from \$250,000 to \$260,000

#### Workforce Employment and Training Activities-79TFS

- Dedicate \$1,275,000 authorized under Rider 33 to support Fast Start
- Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

#### **Skills Development**

#### • Dual Credit-79013

- Dedicate 5% of the Skills Development Funds, \$1,214,793, to support Dual Credit programs.
- Funds will support new CTE-Early College High Schools with priority given for projects that include a paid internship component

### **SNAP**

- Partnership with Local Food Banks-new initiative
  - Establish a new initiative in the amount of \$250,000
  - Funds will be awarded to Boards to build stronger partnerships with local food banks
  - Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

#### **Workforce Investment Act**

- College Credit for Heroes-74034
  - Increase the amount from \$800,000 to \$1.4 million
  - To the extent possible, dedicate half of the funds to support universities and half of the funds to support community colleges.
- Teacher Externships-74046
  - Increase the amount from \$558,079 to \$600,000
- Youth Career Fairs-74049
  - Increase the amount from \$700,000 to \$980,000 (\$35,000/LWDA)

# Local Performance Quality Improvement Funds 78014

FY16 Request: \$225,000

The purpose of the Local Performance Incentive Funding is to support AEL grant recipient project performance and innovation through dissemination of information about models and proven or promising practices within the State awards.

Local performance quality improvement funds will support the quality of, and improvement in local performance in the following areas:

Yearly Summary	Awards	Total Amount
	College Integration First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	\$225,000
2016	Board Integration First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	
	Employer Partnerships First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	

	College Integration First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	
	Board Integration First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	\$980,000
2017	Employer Partnerships First Place \$50,000 Second Place \$35,000	
2017	High School Equivalency Test Completion* Criteria TBD, total \$500,000	
	Federal Core Outcome Measures* Criteria TBD, total	
	\$225,000	

<sup>\*</sup>Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership Activity

# Texas Adult Education and Literacy –Workforce Development Integration 77005

2016 Request: \$840,000

The purpose of the workforce and adult education integration initiative is to increase engagement opportunities between Boards and AEL grant recipients and their providers. Boards will use the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis and solution strategies developed during the 2015 regional workforce and adult education integration initiative meetings to lead policy and procedural enhancement efforts that incorporate integration of AEL objectives into Board strategic initiatives, employer engagement and contractor procedures.

Anticipated outcomes include increased:

- access by workforce customer to AEL services;
- enrollment of AEL customers into Board services
- stronger alignment of AEL services to the businesses

Yearly Summary	Award	Budget Distribution
Tearly Summary	Awaru	(Two-year contract)

PY14/FY15	LWDB Distribution	\$240,000
PY15/FY16	LWDB Distribution	\$840,000

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership Activity

# Accelerate Texas 79016

2016 Request: \$3,600,000

The objective of Accelerate Texas is to build Texas' capacity to expand, develop, and implement Integrated Education and Training (IET) models focusing on Career Pathways service approaches that include Career and Technical Education (CTE). Accelerate Texas is a brand developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and jointly expanded with the Agency in 2013.

Grant awards support targeted enhancement or expansion of existing models or the development and implementation of new models. Project funding will support CTE, AEL services, coordination, staffing, curriculum development, student support, and other service delivery. Projects include objectives related to sustainability based on the use of local and other resources.

Previously, the training component of this initiative was funded with WIA funding. Under WIOA, AEL funds may be used to support integrated education and training projects. Therefore, staff are recommending funding this initiative only with AEL funds.

RFP review in process with awards expected June 2016.

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution	
PY14/FY15	Currently in RFP completion for Year 1	\$3,612,887 (\$2,497,470, AEFLA State Leadership Funds and \$1,115,417, WIA State Incentive Funds)	
PY15/FY16	RFP	\$3,600,000	

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership Activity

### 2016 Request: \$500,000

Federal guidance has recently been issued regarding a partial restoration of "Ability-to-Benefit" provisions for students to quality for Pell Grant funds. At the end of 2001, Congress made several eligibility changes to the Pell Grant program, including the elimination for new students who would have qualified under Ability-to-Benefit. Ability-to-Benefit students lacked a high school diploma or GED, but qualified for Pell Grants by demonstrating their capacity to succeed in higher education.

In May 2015, the Department of Education released guidance on modifications that were made by Congress (Public Law 113-235, enacted on December 16, 2014) to Ability-to-Benefit provisions. Under this new guidance, students who are not high school graduates qualify for Pell Grants if they:

- Are enrolled in an eligible career pathway program on or after July 1, 2014 (retroactive)
- Pass a Department of Education approved Ability-to-Benefit test
- Complete at least 6 credit hours or 225 clock hours that are applicable towards a degree or certificate offered by a postsecondary institution
- Complete a State process approved by the Secretary of Education

Staff recommends dedicating \$500,000 to support building the capacity of colleges to implement the new Pell guidance on Ability to Benefit. This could include:

- Deployment of customized referral, assessment, admissions and student aid process for workforce,
   AEL and other individuals to Pell-eligible career pathways programs
- Deployment of Pell-eligible career pathways training and Adult Education and Literacy programs
- Other demonstrated activities to implement student enrollment in community college career pathways programs by fall of 2016

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution
PY15/FY16	To be determined	\$500,000

Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

## Student Support Call Center Proposed Statewide Initiative - 77016

2016 Request: \$500,000

The purpose of the Call Center is to support adult education and literacy students with a focus on GED mathematics instruction. The call center will operate within the infrastructure of TWC's call center phone system and be staffed by individuals trained to provide remote mathematics support. In addition to phone support, call center staff will utilize online tutoring software to provide visual support to students as they work through questions.

Yearly Summary	Distribution
PY15/FY16	\$500,000

Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

# Professional Development for Early Childhood Education 76013

2016 Request: \$500,000 CCDF

Rider 30, Article VII, General Appropriations Act, 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (2014), and Rider 29, Article VII-40, General Appropriations Act (GAA), 85th Texas Legislature (2015), directs the Agency to dedicate \$500,000 funds in each year of the biennium for programs that encourage increased participation in continuing professional development for early childhood professionals.

In 2014, the Commission approved these funds for two initiatives:

- Professional Development Scholarship Program for Early Childhood Professionals (TWC Track 76013), and
- Online training, through a partnership with DFPS (TWC Track 76014)

Staff recommends that the Commission fund one program in the coming biennium – the Professional Development Scholarship Program for Early Childhood Professionals. This program assists eligible providers to work toward certification to become a Texas Rising Star (TRS) provider by meeting Criterion III Caregiver Staff Qualifications.

Yearly Summary	Funding	Caregivers Awarded CDA Assessment Scholarships	Caregivers Awarded Associate's Degree Scholarships	Average Cost Per Participant for CDA Scholarships	Average Cost Per Participant for Associate's Degree Scholarships
2014	\$250,000	60	24	\$511	\$2,200
2015	\$250,000	47*	28*	\$511	\$2,200
TOTAL	\$500,000	107	52	\$511	\$2,200

<sup>\*</sup>As of June 11, 2015

Red White and You Job Fair 79RWY

2016 Request: \$260,000 ES

The Texas Workforce Commission will host the fourth annual Hiring Red, White and You! (HRWY) statewide job fair on November 12, 2015. In cooperation with 28 Workforce Solutions partners, the Hiring Red, White and You! Job Fair connects Texas veterans and their spouses with Texas employers who value the experience, discipline and other exceptional qualities inherent with a military background. In the first 3 years, HRWY has connected more than 31,000 veterans with over 4,700 employers.

Yearly Summary	Award Amount	Number of Employers Participating	Number of Participants (Jobseekers)
2012	\$250,000	1,411	10,262
2013	\$250,000	1,562	11,212
2014	\$250,000	1,759	9,754
TOTAL	\$750,000	4,732	31,228

## Workforce Employment and Training Activities (Fast Start) 79TFS

2016 Request: \$1,275,000 ETIA

Initially passed in 2013 as Senate Bill 1– Rider Article 9 Section 18.13, General Appropriations Act (GAA), 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, and modified by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature as Rider 33, Article VII-40, GAA.

In 2014, the Commission approved funding under Article 9, Section 18.13 to support the Fast Start Initiative. The purpose of the Fast Start initiative is to support the development and expansion of Fast Start programs that will enable students to obtain post-secondary certificates and degrees at an accelerated pace in high-demand fields or occupations, as identified by local employers. Programs will incorporate competency-based learning techniques that feature a variety of access channels and delivery methods uniquely designed to maximize job preparedness for participating trainees.

In 2014, TWC released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and awarded six contracts for a total of \$2,818,297.

Staff recommends that the Commission dedicate \$1,275,000 in 2016 to support Fast Start initiatives. Staff will develop additional recommendations regarding the awarding of these funds for future Commission consideration.

Yearly Summary	Number of Awards	Amount
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2014 Fast Start I (RFP 320-14-08)	2	\$127,303
		\$229,421
2014 Fast Start II (RFP 320-14-13)	4	\$321,853
		\$1,284,159
		\$375,870
		\$479,691.00
TOTAL		\$2,818,297

## Dual Credit 79013

### 2016 Request: \$1,214,793 Skills Development Fund

The purpose of the TWC Dual Credit Initiative in FY2016 will be to support New CTE-ECHS (Career and Technical Education Early College High School) programs with priority given for projects that include an internship component.

Available funding will be made available for development of curriculum with a CTE focus for new ECHS programs, purchase or repair of equipment that will support a newly established CTE-ECHS program and a portion of wages paid through internship programs.

TWC has provided awards in support of the dual credit initiative since 2014, after legislation amended the Skills statute to allow for funding in support of dual credit programs. Below is the summary of the history of the dual credit programs supported by TWC over the last two years:

Yearly Summary	Total Amount Allocated	Amount Awarded	Purpose	Description
2014	\$1,000,000	\$599,033	Tri-agency initiative with Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	Supported the creation and establishment of new CTE-ECHS programs with a focus on high-demand occupations in certain highly technical industries

	\$450,000	\$450,000	3 Awards granted to Community Colleges in partnership with ISDs for CTE- focused dual credit programs	Supported dual credit programs in partnership with local ISDs by funding curriculum development/ enhancement; and/ or equipment purchases/ repairs
2015	\$1,000,000	In process	Awards in process with Community Colleges in partnership with ISDs for CTE-focused dual credit programs	Supported dual credit programs in partnership with local ISDs by funding curriculum development/ enhancement; and/ or equipment purchases/ repairs
TOTAL	\$2,395,891			

#### Partnerships with Local Food Banks in Texas

Proposed Statewide Initiative

2016 Request: \$250,000 SNAP E&T

One of TWC's goals for FFY'16 is to build stronger partnerships with local communities, and private non-profit sectors. Specifically, TWC will use SNAP E&T administrative funds to implement an initiative that will encourage Boards to strengthen partnerships with local Food Banks in the workforce development areas of the state to market the SNAP E&T program to potential SNAP E&T volunteers (i.e., exempt recipients) who visit Food Bank facilities. In addition, the administrative funds may be used to refer mandatory work registrants who visit the Food Bank facilities to Workforce Solutions offices for SNAP E&T.

To maximize the SNAP E&T funding, Workforce Solutions staff may be stationed at one or more Food Bank locations in Texas, or Boards may train Food Bank staff to provide the following:

- information about SNAP E&T to new SNAP recipients;
- a referral for SNAP E&T services to exempt recipients, and mandatory work registrants not yet outreached; and/or
- a scheduled appointment to begin participation at Workforce Solutions offices, in allowable SNAP E&T activities for exempt and mandatory work registrants who are not currently participating.
   Note: Once a referral or appointment is generated, SNAP recipients identified as mandatory work registrants will be expected to meet all SNAP E&T program requirements through Workforce Solutions.

Workforce Solutions Office staff housed at the Food Bank, or Food Bank personnel will serve as the first point of contact for exempt SNAP recipients interested in participating in SNAP E&T activities and mandatory work registrants who have not yet been outreached. In addition, Workforce Solutions office staff or Food Bank staff may also assist the SNAP recipient with registering Texas' job matching system, WorkInTexas.com.

There are a number of Food Banks in Texas that partner with Boards for an Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) workfare assignment. Expanding the Board and Food Bank partnership to promote SNAP E&T services will enable SNAP recipients to gain immediate access to services, quick exposure to the local labor market, and will assist them with entering into permanent full-time employment.

If approved, staff will make recommendations for the utilization of these funds.

# College Credit for Heroes 74034

2016 Request: \$1,400,000 WIA

The College Credit for Heroes (CCH) program seeks to maximize college credits awarded to veterans and service members for their military experience by developing streamlined degree paths and workforce certifications to expedite transition into the Texas workforce.

CCH was initiated in 2011 using \$3 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, officially authorized under Texas Labor Code \$302.0031. Seven Texas colleges were selected to create pilot projects aimed at awarding college credit, workforce certifications, and workforce licenses for military experience. Phase I of the project focused on translating careers in allied health, and included the development of accelerated curricula in fields such as emergency medical services, surgical technology, respiratory therapy, and nursing. Phase I of the initiative also resulted in an online application and database where veterans and service members can receive an official evaluation of credit to be used at colleges and universities throughout the state.

Phase II of the CCH program was initiated in 2012 using \$1.5 million in federal WIA Incentive Grants and WIA Statewide Activity Funds. Phase II expanded to other regions of the state and included development of accelerated curricula from additional colleges and universities in a number of new careers, including information technology, firefighting, advanced manufacturing, logistics, wind engineering, and oil field technology. An additional goal was to expand the network of partnering colleges and universities through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partnerships. Institutions who become CCH partners made a commitment to review CCH evaluations and make every effort to maximize the award of college credit to veterans for their military experience and training.

Phase III of the CCH program was initiated in 2014 using \$800,000 in federal WIA Statewide Activity Funds for one or more of the following three components: (1) Development of new accelerated curricula or courses for streamlined degree, certificate, or licensing programs that translate military training and work experience into civilian credentials; (2) Collaboration with a CCH Phase I or Phase II grantee to replicate previously developed accelerated curricula or courses for streamlined degree, certificated, or licensing programs that translate military training and work experience into civilian credentials; or (3)

Implementation of a pilot project that use existing accelerated curricula or courses for streamlined degree, certificate, or licensing programs that translate military training and work experience into civilian credentials.

Phase IV of the CCH program will continue the expansion of accelerated curriculum development for the translation of military training and work experience. To the extent that qualified applications are received from universities and community colleges, staff recommends that one-half of the funds be dedicated to universities and one-half to community colleges.

Below is a summary of the recent history of CCH funding:

Yearly Summary	Number of Awards	Final Award Amount	Targeted Veterans/ Servicemembers Served
2011	7	\$2,951,725	222
2013	11	\$1,271,167*	1,368
2015	5	\$758,482	95
TOTAL	23	\$4,981,374	1,685

# Teacher Externship Program 74046

2016 Request: \$600,000 WIA

The Statewide Externship Program will allow middle school and high school teachers to engage in activities in a particular industry and learn how classroom content can be applied in the workplace.

The externship will inform teachers on the skill sets required for a given industry, and teachers can then inform, educate, and guide students to industries that match their skill sets. Connecting classroom content to the real world and workplace will help students understand and develop the academic and technical skills they need to enter the workforce.

The funds were distributed through an RFP for Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) to partner with local employers, local independent school districts (ISDs), and institutions of higher education. Leveraged funds as a match for the program will be required from employers or ISDs to enhance the program.

This was a new initiative for FY'15 and grants began April 1, 2015 and will end March 31, 2016.

<sup>\*</sup>Final award amount in 2013 includes deobligation of funds from five colleges.

Year	Number of Awards	Award Amount	Targeted Number of Participants
2015	8	\$558,079	429
TOTAL	8	\$582,079	429

# Youth Career Fairs 74049

#### 2016 Request: \$980,000 WIA (\$35,000 per LWDA)

On July 8, 2014, the Commission approved \$700,000 of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) statewide activity funds for Program Year 2015 (PY'15) to implement a Youth Career Fairs Program through distribution of \$25,000 to each local workforce development area (workforce area). The funds are intended to:

- enhance an existing youth career fair hosted by a Local Workforce Development Board (Board);
   or
- develop a new Board-hosted youth career fair.

Boards have established partnerships with high schools, other educational entities, and employers to host career fairs. These career fairs are designed to provide students with:

- career exploration opportunities;
- a forum for hearing from business representatives regarding industry employment requirements and opportunities; and
- academic or job training requirements.

Staff recommends that the youth career fairs continue in PY'16 with \$980,000 in WIA statewide activity funds with the following modifications:

- Retain \$25,000 for each Board to develop or enhance youth career fairs; and
- Add an additional \$10,000 for each Board to use for one or more of the following activities:
- development or enhancement of youth career fairs;
- career exploration activities for out-of-school youth;
- coordination with schools in the implementation of HB 5; or
- other activities allowed by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Yearly Summary	Number of LWDA's	Distribution	Total Distribution
2015	28	\$25,000	\$700,000
TOTAL			\$700,000

## AEL Professional Development Center 77001

2016 Request: \$2,400,000

The purpose of the Texas Adult Education and Literacy Professional Development Center (PD Center) is to deliver multi-faceted professional development support to serve AEL Grant Recipients and their connected Service Providers, Local Workforce Development Boards, community and faith-based organizations providing AEL services, and other organizations that support AEL services.

The PD Center provides a comprehensive statewide support system for that includes, but is not limited to:

- data-driven, research-based professional development support and training to local providers on behalf of the Agency;
- recruitment and data management of professional development contract trainers using an online searchable contract trainer database;
- development of curricula and multi-media course content to be delivered via on-demand and/or hybrid formats;
- the management of professional development courses on an agency-provided learning management system;
- recruitment, registration, logistics, documentation, and management for Professional Development events facilitated by the PD Center and/or the Agency;
- statewide purchases of professional development services, materials and other professional development items as designated by the Agency; and
- statewide and local needs analyses and research aimed to improve local performance, promulgate innovation and strengthen service quality to students and staff.

Yearly Summary	Award	Budget Distribution (Two-year contract)
PY13/FY14	Texas A &M University (Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning/TCALL)	\$2,278,362
PY14/FY15		\$2,368,177
PY15/FY16	TCALL, through May 2016  RFP for services to begin June 2016	\$2,400,000 total

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership Activity

### 2016 Request: \$30,000

The purpose of the Learning Management System is to manage AEL professional development registration and documentation and house training materials while at the same time providing a platform for on-demand courseware and virtual interactive training. The LMS is a cloud-based, full-featured, off-the-shelf secure system with course registration and management for in-person, hybrid, and online training events.

The FY15 contract was initiated on March 27, 2015.

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution
PY14/FY15	Cornerstone LLC	\$30,000
PY15/FY16	Cornerstone LLC	\$30,000

# Professional Development for Non-Profit Adult Literacy Organizations in Texas 77004

2016 Request: \$250,000

The purpose of this project is to provide professional development to tutors, instructors, program administrative staff, and trainers of non-profit adult literacy organizations in Texas. Professional development services include training on literacy volunteer management, which may include volunteer recruitment, training, placement, monitoring, and retention; low literacy instruction/tutoring for either native English or non-native English speakers; developing collaborative partnerships that benefit students with Adult Education and Literacy grant recipients, including data sharing relationships; and other areas based on the results of the needs assessment and input from the committee.

A competitive RFP was conducted in FY15, and Literacy Texas was selected. The contract was initiated in June is out for signature.

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution
PY14/FY15	Literacy Texas	\$250,000
PY15/FY16	Literacy Texas	\$250,000

Assessment and Standards Project 77010

2016 Request: \$215,000

The purpose of the Assessment and Standards Project update the Texas Adult Education Standards and Benchmarks for ABE/ASE and ESL Learners last undated in 2007. The project will revise Adult Basic and Adult Secondary Education and English Language Acquisition levels of the standards and benchmarks and align them with the Texas College & Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency test, and the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) with inputs from other relevant standards criteria.

To ensure AEL standards align with WIOA assessment requirements, the project will also provide guidance to support modifications to the Texas Adult Education and Literacy assessment procedures related to WIOA performance and accountability changes as determined after the release of WIOA regulations.

RFP in process with expected awards September 2015.

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution
PY14/FY15	RFP in progress	\$215,000
PY15/FY16	RFP in progress	\$215,000

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership

# Leadership Excellence Academy 77012

2016 Request: \$147,200

The purpose of the Leadership Excellence Academy (LEA) is to build leadership capacity within the Adult Education and Literacy local grantee management. LEA is a two year professional development commitment for attendees and Texas has participated in this initiative for the last several years. The Commission allocated funds for at least one member from each AEL grant recipients to participate. Over 30 individuals have recently completed year one of the two year training. Funding this year will support a second cohort to begin their year 1 cycle.

The initiative is a partnership between the University of Tennessee and the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC). This is considered by AEL directors nationwide to be a quality program-improvement effort that results in a nationally recognized credential: Certified Manager of Program Improvement.

A total of 31 AEL grant recipient leaders completed tier one of training.

Yearly Summary	Award	Distribution
	National Adult Education	
PY14/FY15	Professional Development	\$147,200
	Consortium	
	National Adult Education	
PY15/FY16	Professional Development	\$147,200
	Consortium	

Note: Addresses WIOA Required State Leadership Activity

# Child Assessments for Individualized Instruction Pilots 76009

#### 2016 Request: \$1,000,000

In 2014, the Commission approved \$2 million in child care funds for professional development and individual instruction pilots. This funding is used to increase the number of pilot sites to implement programs that utilize tools for individualized instruction and assessment coupled with professional development components that support ongoing learning for teachers. These assessments are intended to provide teachers or caregivers with tools for developing strategies that align classroom instruction with developmental domains and ultimately prepare children to perform well in school.

Based upon the positive performance evidenced by one of the grantees (Grantee #2), staff is recommending extending this demonstration for an additional year at \$1,000,000.

Yearly Summary	<b>Number of Contracts</b>	Awarded Amount	Anticipated Performance
			3085 early childhood caregivers to be trained.
2015	2	\$2,000,000	40,495 children to be assessed.

## Child Care Quality Award Conference (Child Care Conference) 76017

### 2016 Request: \$100,000 CCDF

This initiative develops Board awards to recognize outstanding child care quality initiatives and encourages the replication of successful initiatives and best practices. The Board awards may focus on categories of quality child care such as: consumer education, technical assistance, and professional development. To foster replication and technical assistance in the implementation of best practices, these funds are also be used to support a child care quality award conference to highlight the winning initiatives and promote knowledge sharing. The first conference took place on April 8, 2015.

Staff are recommending that funds again be dedicated to support a Child Care Quality Award conference in 2015. At this time, the specific date for the conference is unknown but is expected to be in spring 2016 to align with the Workforce forum—as soon as that date is set. The \$100,000 funding would be used to cover the travel costs for 2 representatives from each Board to participate in the conference. Funds may also be used to support the room costs, audio visual costs, and other associated conference expenses.

Yearly Summary	Amount Budgeted	# of Attendees
2015	\$100,000	28 Boards 90 Attendees

# Employer and Community-Based Organization Partnerships 79009

#### 2016 Request: \$4,000,000 GR

Rider 30, Article VII-40, General Appropriations Act (GAA), 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015), directs the Agency to implement a program with community-based organizations (CBO) in partnership with employers to move Texans off public benefits and into the workforce. In fiscal year 2016 and 2017, \$4,000,000 in General Revenue Funds will be used to implement the program through a competitive RFP.

In fiscal year 2014, TWC released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals from qualified organizations to implement the program. Three organizations were awarded contracts. In fiscal year 2015, TWC released a second RFP to solicit proposals from additional qualified organizations and has approved the award to one organization. Remaining funds from the second RFP will be distributed proportionately among all awarded organizations to serve additional participants.

Yearly Summary	Award Amount	Number of Contracts awarded	Targeted Number of Participants	Average Cost Per Participant
2014	\$4,000,000	3	2,312	\$1,730

2015	\$1,372,348*	1	700	\$1,960
TOTAL	\$5,372,348	4	3443	\$2,128

# The Women's Institute for Technology Employment Training 79004

2016 Request: \$250,000 GR

Rider 26, Article VII-40, General Appropriations Act (GAA), 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015), directs the Agency to allocate \$250,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2017 to the Women's Institute for Technology Employment Training to support comprehensive program with statewide activity funds to develop curriculum, courses and programs to prepare single women with children who are economically disadvantaged or on state or federal assistance, for entry-level jobs and careers in Texas manufacturing and technology based industries.

The contract was awarded in 2014 for a period of two years for a total of \$500,000.

Year	Amount Awarded	Number Served	Services Provided
2009 to 2010	250,000		Job readiness training
2010 to 2011	250,000		Job readiness training
			Basic workplace skills
2011 to 2012	250,000		for entry-level job in
2011 to 2012	250,000		mfg & technology
			industries
2012 to 2013	250,000		Job readiness training
2012 to 2013	250,000		on web-based platform
			High school simulation
2013 to 2014	340,000		lab & nurse aide
2013 to 2014	340,000		training for 50 eligible
			students
2014 to 2015	2014 to 2015 500,000		Basics of Machine Tool
2017 10 2013	300,000		Technology

<sup>\*</sup>A proportionate share of the remaining funds of \$2,627,652 will be offered to the four awarded contracts to serve additional participants. TWC staff is currently working with the organizations on these negotiations.

## Noncustodial Parent (NCP) Employment Initiative (NCP Choices Program) 75005

2016 Request: \$4,000,000 TANF

The purpose of the Noncustodial Parent (NCP) Choices program is to assist NCPs with overcoming barriers to employment and career advancement while becoming economically self-sufficient and making consistent child support payments. NCP Choices is a collaborative effort of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) of Texas, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), local workforce development boards (Boards) and family court judges.

The program targets low-income unemployed or underemployed noncustodial parents who are behind on their child support payments and whose children are current or former recipients of public assistance. Employment services for NCPs include, but are not limited to: job readiness/job search, educational services, work experience, on-the-job training (OJT) and subsidized employment.

Since the inception of the program in FY05 through April 2015, 26,002 NCPs have been referred and served in the NCP Choices program which has resulted in more than \$177 million of child support collections.

In FY13 the OAG provided additional funding of \$3 million which allowed for services to be expanded to other non-public assistance low income NCPs. Further, in FY13, the OAG was awarded a five year demonstration grant from the Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Support Enforcement that expands NCP Choices services to two additional sites in Texas. The OAG continued this same level of commitment in FY15 which allowed for the PEER program to continue and also to expand the NCP Choices program into additional Board areas. It is anticipated that this level of commitment will continue in FY16.

TWC has utilized statewide TANF funds for the NCP Choices program. Below is a summary of the history of the NCP Choices program:

Yearly Summary	Number of LWDA's	Distribution
NCP Choices FY05	4	\$1,000,000
NCP Choices FY06	4	\$0*
NCP Choices FY07	5	\$1,900,000
NCP Choices FY08	10	\$1,500,000
NCP Choices FY09	14	\$2,400,000
NCP Choices FY10	17	\$2,400,000
NCP Choices FY11	17	\$3,900,000
NCP Choices FY12	17	\$4,900,000
NCP Choices FY13	17	\$4,900,000
NCP Choices FY14	19**	\$3,904,917
NCP Choices FY15	19**	\$3,896,862
TOTAL		\$30,701,779

\*Please note that FY05 contracts were awarded in July and August 2005 in order to fund the program through 2006. Therefore, the total showing in the chart for FY06 is \$0.

\*\* The number of LWDA's for FY14 does not include the two LWDAs that are participating in and funded by the OAG demonstration grant.

# Foster Youth Transition Center Grants 75006

**2016 Request: \$2,000,000 TANF** 

The purpose of the Foster Youth Transition Center grants is to expand TWC's support of Foster Youth Transition Centers that provide services and activities to youth transitioning out of foster care. The transition centers provide a comprehensive array of services and referrals to services that help transitioning foster youth overcome barriers they face. Services include: workforce services, dropout prevention activities, self-esteem and leadership activities, counseling, and other services to support the healthy development of transitioning foster youth.

In FY2012, as part of an expansion of the initiative, 14 transition centers each received a TANF contract directly supporting services provided to youth through the transition center and 13 centers received Self Sufficiency Fund (SSF) contracts, for training and employment opportunities with identified business partners.

Since FY2012, the 14 transition centers have each received a TANF contract directly supporting services provided to foster youth transitioning into the workforce. The numbers of youth served include both new and continuing participants. Grant amounts and targeted numbers served are shown below:

	Fiscal Year	Number of Contracts	Grant Amount	Targeted Number of Foster Youth Served
FY 2008		4	\$700,000	575
FY 2009		4	\$820,000	575
FY 2010		3	\$750,000	605
FY 2011		4	\$1,070,000	1,145
FY 2012		27	\$3,050,000	2,460
FY 2013		14	\$2,000,000	2,282
FY 2014		14	\$2,000,000	2,210

FY 2015	14	\$2,000,000	2,390
TOTAL	84	\$12,390,000	12,242

As of April 2015 data reports (received May 20, 2015), the target of 2,390 foster youth that have been provided services is 1,743(\*). Of these 1,743(\*) served, 450 have been placed in employment.

\*Note: Services provided to 1,743 foster youth may include duplicate participants enrolled under contract #2215TAN001 – Corpus Christi. The Grantee is trying to resolve the enrollment duplication issue by June 8, 2015.

## Governor's Summer Merit Program 75011

2016 Request: \$1,000,000 TANF

The purpose of the Summer Merit Program (SMP) is to provide scholarships for Texas middle school and high school students between 14 and 21 years of age to increase the number of students served in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills-related summer camp programs. Students who attend the day or residential camps get information and experience about post-secondary opportunities that lead to STEM careers.

Examples of activities include a day camp in which students design, program and build robots, a two week academic enrichment residential math camp for talented but underserved 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and a one week residential engineering camp for 9<sup>th</sup> graders who attend industrial tours and do hands on laboratory activities.

The GSMP supports initiatives by the Governor to prepare Texas' future workforce to compete for the high-skill, high-demand jobs of the future.

In FY2012, FY2013, and FY2014 the program was funded with TANF funds. In previous years, the program was funded with WIA funds.

In 2013, TWC awarded grants to 20 community colleges and universities that resulted in 1,522 scholarships for students to attend 72 summer merit camps. In 2014, TWC awarded grants to 14 community colleges and universities that resulted in 985 scholarships and 39 summer camps. The estimated number of scholarships for 2015 is 1,058 for 35 summer camps.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has provided awards for the SMP through a Request for Proposal process. Below is a summary of the history of the SMP:

Yearly Summary	Number of Awards	Award Amount
SMP 2008	18	\$994,576
SMP 2009	17	\$949,426
SMP 2010	19	\$1,614,590
SMP 2011	15	\$892,166
SMP 2012	14	\$929,104

SMP 2013	20	\$1,518,256
SMP 2014	14	\$991,608
SMP 2015	13	\$937,556
TOTAL	130	\$8,827,282

# Youth Robotics Initiative 75016

2016 Request: \$1,000,000 TANF

The purpose of the Robotics Program is to expand statewide participation in robotics programs by developing new competitive robotics education teams of students in grades 9-12 and by supporting existing Texas high school competitive robotics education teams.

Examples of activities include team activities in which students design, program and build robots under the supervision of a mentor. The mentors, including professional engineers, help students build and program their robots to compete against other teams in regional competitions. The best teams have a chance to qualify to be sent to the World Championships. In 2015, TWC funded 38 Texas teams' registration fees that qualified to compete at two world championship events.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has provided awards for the Robotics Program through a Request for Proposal process. Below is a summary of the history of the program:

Yearly Summary	Number of Awards	Award Amount	Targeted Number of Teams	Targeted Number of Students	Avg. Cost per Student
2010	3	\$621,261	508	3,578	\$174
2011	3	\$1,805,770	500	5,661	\$319
2012	1	\$998,092	223	4,405	\$227
2013	2	\$1,500,000	697	7,990	\$188
2014	3	\$1,800,045	887	8,550	\$211
2015	1	\$1,000,000	268	3,760	\$266
TOTAL	13	\$7,725,168	3,083	33,944	\$228

Pathways Home-TX Cncl Homeless 75022

**2016 Request: \$10,000 TANF** 

On June 10, 2014, the Commission approved contributing \$10,000 in TANF funds to support the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) as it implements *Pathways Home*.

#### Funds were directed to:

- compiling primary priorities of each continuum of care to identify the most critical needs;
- supporting subcommittees created by *Pathways Home*;
- pursuing a "no wrong door" approach to assisting the homeless or those at risk of homelessness;
- studying ways to increase permanent housing situations for those who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- data analysis; and
- facilitating and supporting the cost share of a VISTA employee to focus solely on the work of TICH, *Pathways Home*, and the statutory directives of TICH.

## Support for the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless

In 1995, Texas Government Code, Chapter 2306, Subchapter KK, mandated the creation of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) with the purpose of coordinating resources, information, and assistance among related state agencies to address homelessness. The statute also directs each state agency member of TICH to contribute resources to TICH. Representatives from 11 state agencies, along with members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, make up TICH. TWC serves as a member of the TICH. Recently, TICH requested financial assistance from agency members to support its efforts to implement *Pathways Home: A Framework for Coordinating State Administered Programs with Continuum of Care Planning to Address Homelessness in Texas*. The framework presented in *Pathways Home* is intended to help more of Texas' most vulnerable residents enter into, and remain in, stable and affordable housing.

Texas Science Careers Consortium (Texas Science and Engineering Fair) 74005

2016 Request: \$75,000 WIA

The purpose of the grant is to support the Texas Science and Engineering Fair (TXSEF) hosted by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) College of Sciences. The Fair offers a competition for state middle and high school student science fair winners to showcase their research projects in fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). UTSA manages facilities for the Fair and conducts activities including the display of student projects, competitions and awards selection.

Activities at the Fair allow top science fair winners from across the state to showcase their projects to the judges and potentially be recognized at the awards ceremony. Top winners get the opportunity to compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair.

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has provided funding to UTSA each year to support the Texas Science and Engineering Fair. Below is a summary of recent year funding and numbers served:

Yearly Summary	Contract Amount	Actual Number of Students Attending the Fair	Average Cost Per Participant
2008	\$75,000	1,065	\$70
2009	\$75,000	979	\$77
2010	\$75,000	951	\$79
2011	\$75,000	1,001	\$75
2012	\$75,000	969	\$77
2013	\$50,000	1,029	\$49
2014	\$81,500	1,062	\$77
2015	\$75,000	1,112	\$67
TOTAL	\$581,500	8,168	\$71

## Governor's Challenge Camp (Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy) 74006

2016 Request: \$100,000 WIA

The purpose of the Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy is to provide a STEM related one-week residential summer camp. Students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades who have a winning project at the Texas Science and Engineering Fair are awarded scholarships to the camp. The teachers who mentored the students were awarded scholarships for a professional development event; this award was not continued after 2013.

Examples of camp activities include a variety of STEM interests, combining active learning presentations by faculty members, hands-on team projects, industry field trips, open-ended research investigations, and individual take-home projects. Prior to 2014, teachers attended a professional development workshop related to their winning student's STEM-related residential summer camp.

TWC has provided an award each year for the Governor's Science and Technology Champions' Academy. Below is the summary of the history of the camp and targeted numbers served:

Yearly Summary	Award Amount	Targeted Number of Students Participating	Targeted Number of Teachers Participating	Average Cost Per Participant	Grantee
2009	\$128,625	40	15	\$2,339	University of Texas at San Antonio
2010	\$130,000	30	15	\$2,889	University of Texas at San Antonio
2011	\$110,000	50	15	\$1,692	University of Texas at Arlington
2012	\$111,690	50	15	\$1,718	University of Houston
2013	\$84,132	50	15	\$1,294	South Texas College
2014	\$84,745	50	NA	\$1,695	University of Houston
2015	\$97,752	50	NA	\$1,955	Texas A&M University
TOTAL	\$746,944	320	75	\$1,891	

## Small Business Initiative (Office of the Governor) 74008

### 2016 Request: \$650,000 WIA

The purpose of the Interagency Cooperation Contract is to provide training and information conveyance by conducting forums across the state to any and all Texans who are interested in starting and/or expanding a business, including entrepreneurs and small businesses (including those run by veterans, minorities, and women). The intent is to provide businesses with information regarding available governmental services, workforce training programs, contracting opportunities, best practices and methodologies, exporting products and services, and any other areas relevant to small business inception and growth. Below is the summary of the history of the contracts, including targeted number of forums conducted and actual number of attendees.

Yearly Summary	Targeted Number of Forums Conducted	Award Amount	Actual Number of Attendees
2009	12	\$1,000,000	10,058
2010	32	\$1,200,000	6,804
2012	18	\$550,000	3,148
2013	18	\$650,000	4,044
2014	18	\$600,000	4,783
2015	18	\$650,000	N/A (ongoing)
TOTAL	116	\$4,650,000	28,837

### Veterans Workforce Outreach 74010

2016 Request: \$425,000 WIA

The purpose of the Veterans Workforce Outreach program is: (1) to outreach hard-to-serve veterans who are not currently being served through the Texas Workforce Centers; (2) to address employment barriers faced by hard-to-serve veterans; and (3) to reintegrate hard-to-serve veterans into meaningful employment. Hard-to-serve veterans have one or more barriers to employment, such as homelessness; a history of substance abuse; physical, mental, or learning disabilities; post-traumatic stress disorder; exoffender status, or recent discharge from military duty.

Barriers to employment are addressed and resources are accessed to overcome barriers under the guidance of the case manager. Veterans benefit from a wide range of services which may include:

- assessments;
- job development and job placement;
- individual case management services including guidance, encouragement and resources; and
- supportive services such as transportation.

Recent awards and targeted numbers served are shown below. (Note: ARRA WIA funds supported the 2010 project).

Year	Number of Awards	Award Amount	Targeted Number of Veterans Served
2008	1	\$425,000	448
2009	1	\$425,000	448
2010	1	\$531,250	560
2011	1	\$318,750	336
2012	1	\$425,000	448
2013	1	\$425,000	426
2014	1	\$425,000	426
2015	TBD*	\$425,000	TBD*
TOTAL	7	\$3,400,000	3,092

\*The 2015 Veterans Workforce Outreach Initiative Request for Proposals was originally published on 12/9/14 and republished on 5/7/15. Total number of awards and targeted number of veterans served will be determined at a later date.

## Veterans Apprenticeship (Registered Apprenticeship Training Program for Veterans and/or Servicemembers) 74045

### 2016 Request: \$500,000 WIA

The Registered Apprenticeship Training Program for Veterans and/or Servicemembers is a program that:

- accelerates participants into or through a United States (U.S.) Department of Labor (DOL) Registered Apprenticeship Training Program in Texas ("Apprenticeship Training Program"); or
- accelerates participants into or through a U.S. DOL Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program that leads to enrollment of participants into an Apprenticeship Training Program during the grant period.

This was a new initiative for TWC in 2015 and an RFP was released to solicit proposals from organizations that can implement this project. TWC expects to award contracts in August 2015.

Year	Total Available Funding	Award Amount	
2015	\$500,000	In process	
TOTAL	\$500,000	In Process	

# Leadership Academy Initiative 79LAI

2016 Request: \$150,000

In 2015, the Commission approved \$145,600 to support a Leadership Academy Initiative for Local

Workforce Development Board staff. This initiative addresses the workforce system's loss of institutional knowledge due to the turnover of executive staff caused mainly by the retirement of baby boomers. Recognizing the critical importance of succession planning—preparing staff with the skills and experience to fill Board leadership roles—TWC created a Leadership Academy based on the recommendation of a Board workgroup.

Staff recommends continuing support for the Leadership Academy. The funding will provide support for up to two staff members from each Board to participate, and will cover registration and travel costs. The initiative will be funded from several funding streams, as follows:

•	Child Care	\$64,800
•	ES	\$ 8,700
•	SNAP E&T	\$ 6,750
•	TANF	\$30,900
•	TAA	\$ 8,550
•	WIA	\$30,300

Yearly Summary	Amount	Number of Attendees	
2015	\$145,600	27 LWDBs	
		46 Attendees	

#### **Board Awards**

# Apprenticeship 74015 (WIA), 75015 (TANF), 20004 (SNAP E&T)

2016 Request: \$1,000,000 WIA

\$ 150,000 TANF \$ 128,000 SNAP E&T

The purpose of the apprenticeship training funds is to supplement the costs of the job-related classroom instruction for eligible Department of Labor – Office of Apprenticeship registered apprenticeship training programs. Funds for apprenticeship training classes are currently distributed based on the following priority:

- (1) related instruction, or "apprenticeship," classes that consist of organized, off-the-job instruction in theoretical or technical subjects required for the completion of an apprenticeship program for a particular apprenticeable trade;
- (2) supplementary instruction, or "journeyworker," classes that consist of instruction designed to provide new skills, or upgrade current skills, for persons employed as journeyworkers in apprenticeable trades; and
- (3) preparatory instruction , or "pre-apprentice" classes that consist of instruction lasting six

months or less that teach the basic skills required for an individual to comply with the terms of the individual's apprenticeship agreement.

Prior to FY16 the Apprenticeship Training Program (ATP) only supported related instruction due to very limited funding, but with the additional \$1.5 Million approved in the Legislative Appropriations Request in each year of the biennium, the Agency will have an opportunity to support journeyworker and possibly pre-apprentice in addition to the related classroom training of DOL registered apprentices.

Examples of occupations include electrician, plumber, carpenter, ironworker and painter.

TWC currently provides funding for the Apprenticeship training program through an application process. Funding is generally State General Revenue (GR) funds; however, other funding has been added to GR to supplement the program to include Workforce Investment Act, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Noncustodial Parent (NCP) funds. From 2010 through 2015, the Commission added up to \$1 million each year in WIA funding. Below is a summary of the recent history of ATP funding:

Yearly Summary	Number of Awards	Total Award Apprentices hip Amount	Actual WIA Funds Added to the Total	Actual SNAP Funds Added to the Total	Actual TANF/NCP Funds Added to the Total	Actual Number of Apprentices Trained
ATP 2008	21	\$1,685,664		\$104,496		3,889
ATP 2009	22	\$2,060,858		\$127,973	\$348,943	4,079
ATP 2010	22	\$2,709,497	\$1,000,000	\$128,000		4,146
ATP 2011	22	\$2,709,196	\$1,000,000	\$128,000		4,172
ATP 2012	21	\$2,685,772	\$999,860	\$128,000		3,819
ATP 2013	21	\$2,845,516	\$1,044,800	\$128,000	\$91,576	3,947
ATP 2014	22	\$3,059,192	\$748,528	\$128,000	\$601,527	4,306
ATP 2015	22	\$1,590,438	\$882,526	\$128,000	\$267,508	4,648
TOTAL	173	\$19,346,133				33,006

TWC funded 22 grants totaling \$2,868,472 for 2015 Chapter 133. The 2015 grants included funding from GR, WIA, SNAP E&T, and TANF NCP. TANF NCP funds were utilized in 2015 to adequately fund the apprenticeship program by matching apprentices with non-custodial parent data from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) of Texas.