

1           **ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER CRITERIA RELATED TO TARGET**  
2           **OCCUPATIONS FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY EFFORTS**  
3           **DISCUSSION PAPER**

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5           **Background**

6           On March 13, 2020, the president declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national  
7           emergency. That same day, with confirmed cases of COVID-19 in multiple Texas  
8           counties, Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of disaster for Texas.

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10          On March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott issued GA-08, ordering social distancing  
11          requirements and the closure of all non-essential businesses, effective statewide. In less  
12          than a month, more than a million Texans filed unemployment insurance claims, far  
13          exceeding the 750,000 total claims filed in 2019.

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15          Though a loosening of restrictions allowed some non-essential businesses to re-open  
16          under limited capacity beginning May 1, 2020, many individuals remain dislocated from  
17          employment.

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19          **Issue**

20          The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) sets forth the criteria for  
21          approving eligible providers of WIOA training services. One criterion, pursuant to  
22          WIOA §122(b)(1)(D), is described as “The degree to which the training programs of such  
23          providers relate to in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State.”

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25          As set forth in WIOA §122(b)(3)(G)(iii), training services, with the exception of  
26          registered apprenticeship programs, “shall be directly linked to an in-demand industry  
27          sector or occupation in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which  
28          an adult or dislocated worker receiving such services is willing to relocate, except that a  
29          local board may approve training services for occupations determined by the local board  
30          to be in sectors of the economy that have a high potential for sustained demand or growth  
31          in the local area.”

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33          Boards are required to develop and maintain a list of target occupations that are in high  
34          demand within their local workforce areas. Each Board must approve the target  
35          occupations in an open meeting before they can be added to the Board’s list of target  
36          occupations. In the aftermath of COVID-19, disaster-impacted areas have experienced a  
37          surge in the demand for many occupations that are not currently on the Board’s list of  
38          target occupations, but that are now needed for recovery efforts. A supplemental state-  
39          level list of disaster-impacted occupations would allow Boards the flexibility to quickly  
40          begin providing trainings through ITAs in these critical occupations without having to  
41          wait for local Board meetings.

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43          Occupations in high demand as a result of COVID-19 include:

- 44          • 11-1000 Management, such as general managers, sales managers, and medical and  
45          health service managers;

- 1 • 13-0000 Business and Financial Operations Occupations, such as HR specialists,  
2 analysts, accountants and auditors;
- 3 • 15-0000 Computer and Mathematical Occupations, such as software developers,  
4 computer occupations, all other;
- 5 • 27-3000 Media and Communication Workers, such as interpreters and translators;
- 6 • 29-0000 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations, such as registered  
7 nurses, radiologic technicians, and EMTs and paramedics;
- 8 • 35-0000 Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations, such as cooks and  
9 bartenders;
- 10 • 41-0000 Sales and Related Occupations, retail supervisors, retail sales, and wholesale  
11 or manufacturing sales;
- 12 • 43-0000 Office and Administrative Support Occupations, such as administrative  
13 assistants and customer service representatives;
- 14 • 49-0000 Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations; and
- 15 • 53-0000 Transportation and Material Moving Occupations, such as truck drivers and  
16 material movers.

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18 These occupational groupings are those that include the top 20 job ads from April 5–11,  
19 2020, identified by TWC’s Labor Market and Career Information department.

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21 **Decision Point**

22 Staff seeks direction on recognizing this list of occupations that are in high demand as a  
23 result of COVID-19 as target occupations. This state-level list will be used in conjunction  
24 with Board’s local lists, allowing Boards to forego the approval of individual targeted  
25 occupations in their local areas in order to streamline the ETP eligibility determination  
26 process, ultimately allowing ETPs to provide timely training to COVID-19–impacted  
27 individuals. This list shall remain in effect until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic  
28 disaster, in accordance with the [Major Disaster Declaration for Texas](#) approved by the  
29 president.

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