

1 **Discussion Paper**
2 **AEL Professional Development Center Request for Applications (RFAs) Approval**
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4 **Background**

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6 **Statewide Professional Development Center (PDC)**

7 The purpose of the AEL Statewide PDC is to deliver Professional Development (PD) strategies and
8 Technical Assistance (TA) to all Texas AEL Providers and stakeholders so that they provide
9 comprehensive service delivery to AEL participants. The Statewide PDC uses data-driven PD planning
10 services and implements those services through a structure of PD Institutes (to include Career Pathways,
11 Program Management, Literacy Instruction, Educational Technology, and Stakeholder Integration), as
12 well as through routine and concentrated support to AEL Providers.

13 The anticipated grant start date is June 2021, and one winner has been recommended for \$2,500,000

14 **Distance Education PDC (DEPDC)**

15 The statewide Distance Education Professional Development Center (DEPDC) will deliver Distance
16 Education and Remote Learning training, technical assistance, and capacity building services for AEL
17 Grantees and students. The DEPDC will:

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- 19 • provide PD training and TA to AEL Grantees;
 - 20 • support remote learning and distance education capacity building activities undertaken by AEL
21 Grantees; and,
 - 22 • provide technical support training and TA to eligible students and providers participating in
23 either remote learning or distance education AEL programming.

24 The anticipated grant start date is June 2021, and one winner has been recommended for \$1,000,000.

25 **Career Pathways PDC (CPPDC)**

26 The CPPDC will provide services to improve integration across WIOA Titles that serve priority
27 populations through cross training of stakeholder groups such as Workforce Boards, IHEs, and Career
28 and Technical Education providers. The goal of improving integration is to support system alignment and
29 enhance employment and postsecondary outcomes. The CPPDC will provide research-based PD to AEL
30 Grantees and stakeholders on AEL Career Pathway models. These models include:

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- 32 • Integrated education and training (IET) models for basic skills deficient individuals; and
 - 33 • Integrated EL Civics for ELL, including:
 - 34 ○ internationally trained professional ELLs;
 - 35 ○ services for employer engagement for workplace literacy; and
 - 36 ○ PD to enhance corrections and re-entry services.

37 The anticipated grant start date is July 2021, and one winner has been recommended for \$693,007.

38 **Quality Enhancement PDC (QEPDC)**

39 The QEPDC will utilize data-driven PD planning services and implementation delivered through a
40 structure of QEPD Institutes (to include Performance and Reporting, Data Reporting, Student Success,
41 and Compliance and Monitoring) and through routine and concentrated support to AEL Providers. The
42 QEPDC will:

- 43 • Conduct event planning for statewide, regional, and/or local business events;
- 44 • Conduct research activities to evaluate PD effectiveness and other topics as approved by TWC;
45 and
- 46 • Provide information resources, including a webpage, a resource library collection of PD
47 curricula, and other materials).

48 Services and products/resources will be provided to eligible AEL Grant Recipients and stakeholder
49 organizations as approved by TWC.

50 No applications were received to the published RFA. Staff will develop and brief a proposal to promote
51 applicants for a future RFA for the AEL Quality Enhancement Professional Development Center.

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53 **Issues**

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55 AEL legislation from the 86th Regular Session (HB1949 and Rider 46) state that, "...all grant applications
56 and awards for the Adult Education and Family Literacy program shall be reviewed and approved by
57 TWC's Commissioners prior to notification of award to the grant recipient."

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59 **Decision**

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61 Staff recommend Commission approval for:

- 62 • one grant award totaling \$2,500,000 for the AEL Statewide Professional Development Center;
- 63 • one grant award totaling \$1,000,000 for the AEL Distance Education Professional Development
64 Center; and
- 65 • one grant award totaling \$693,007 for the AEL Career Pathway Professional Development
66 Center.