

1 **Statewide Evaluation of Adult Education and Literacy Programs**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 In 2014, Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission)
5 allocated state leadership funds to create regional workforce integration workgroups composed
6 of Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) grant recipients, Local Workforce Development Boards
7 (Boards), and vocational rehabilitation programs in order to facilitate discussions on integrating
8 each stakeholder’s respective workforce services. These regional workgroups, assembled in
9 2015, were a onetime initiative to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
10 (WIOA) vision of providing a seamless, one-stop service delivery system during a transitional
11 year before WIOA rules were finalized in 2016. The work produced by the 2015 regional
12 workgroups and the 2016 WIOA final rules serve as the foundation for TWC’s current AEL
13 program.

14 At this time, staff has identified the two following activities that will impact future AEL services
15 in Texas and create the need for an evaluation of the current program:

- 16 • Federal legislative activities leading to the reauthorization of WIOA
- 17 • TWC’s issuance of the next statewide AEL Request for Applications (RFA)

18 This statewide RFA will be the third issuance overseen by TWC since the transfer of the
19 federally funded AEL program from the Texas Education Agency to TWC in 2013. Grants under
20 this new statewide RFA will be awarded by July 1, 2023.

21 Finally, AEL state leadership reserve funds provided under the Adult Education and Family
22 Literacy Act (AEFLA), as outlined in §223 (a)(1)(D) of WIOA, must be used for monitoring and
23 evaluating the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities.

24 **Issue: Evaluation of AEL Services¹—\$500,000**

25 The Commission may identify projects to enhance the AEL system using state leadership funds.
26 With WIOA reauthorization underway, and in anticipation of new grant recipients under the
27 statewide AEL RFA, staff has identified a need to evaluate the current state of AEL service
28 delivery in order to provide data that will further improve the statewide AEL system over the
29 next several years.

30 Staff proposes funding a statewide evaluation of AEL services, which may include, but is not
31 limited to, analyzing the following AEL program elements:

- 32 • Integration and coenrollment among WIOA Titles I, II, and IV programs
- 33 • Student retention, persistence, and skill gains and credential achievement

¹ This is a required AEL state leadership activity under WIOA §223(a)(1)(D) that is dedicated to
“the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and
literacy activities.”

- 1 • Program staffing and organizational structures
- 2 • Service models
- 3 • Access to AEL services

4 **Decision Point**

5 Staff seeks direction on funding a statewide evaluation of AEL services with \$500,000 of Fiscal
6 Year 2023 (FY'23) Budget of AEL state leadership funds.