

1                   **Statewide Needs Assessment 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 three following activities that will impact future AEL  
15   services in Texas and create the need for an additional assessment and evaluation of the current  
16   program almost ten years after the adoption of WIOA:

- 17       • Federal legislative activities leading to the reauthorization of WIOA
- 18       • TWC’s issuance of a new statewide AEL Request for Applications (RFA) that requires  
19        an increase in collaboration
- 20       • AEL Advisory committee recommendations to create a ‘No Wrong Door’ approach for  
21        customers accessing One Stop system services

22   **Issue: Evaluation of AEL Statewide Needs<sup>1</sup>—\$500,000**

23   With WIOA reauthorization underway, and the anticipation of new grant recipients under the  
24   statewide AEL RFA, staff has identified a need to assess and evaluate the current state of AEL  
25   service delivery in order to provide data that will further improve the statewide AEL system over  
26   the next several years.

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

- 29       • Integration and coenrollment among WIOA Titles I, II, and IV programs.
  - 30           ○ Desire for co-location of staff and resources
  - 31           ○ Referral systems and processes to streamline services
- 32       • Student retention, persistence, and skill gains and credential achievement
  - 33           ○ Data collection and tracking across tri-agency systems
- 34       • Program staffing and organizational structures

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<sup>1</sup> 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                   ○ Funding that supports student achievements
- 2       • Service models
- 3                   ○ Identification of successful Integrated Education and Training for expanding and
- 4                   scaling statewide

5   **Decision Point**

6   Staff seeks direction on funding an evaluation of AEL statewide needs using \$500,000 of Fiscal  
7   Year 2024 (FY'24) Budget of AEL state leadership funds.