

1 **EM-3540 Disaster—Hurricane Laura Funding**
2 **Discussion Paper**
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4 **Background**

5 On August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura made landfall on the Texas coast. In response, TWC has
6 applied for and anticipates receiving a \$5,000,000 Disaster Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG)
7 from the U.S. Department of Labor to expedite disaster relief services in two Workforce
8 Development Areas (WDA). Each of these areas currently has one county declared a federal
9 disaster area. As more details emerge about the damage caused by the storm, there are likely to
10 be additional counties included within the two identified WDAs.

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12 The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is working with the two Local Workforce
13 Development Boards (Boards) – Deep East and Southeast Texas -- that include the hardest hit
14 counties of Newton and Orange. Boards are reporting power outages due to wind damage and
15 significant debris including fallen trees blocking roadways.
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17 **Issues**

18 Deep East and Southeast Workforce Development Boards have expressed an urgent need for
19 DWG funding to assist with clean up and humanitarian assistance. These funds will support
20 temporary employment for an estimated 1,000 participants in these two local workforce areas.
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22 **Decision Point**

23 Staff seeks direction on approval for \$5,000,000 in Laura funding, upon receipt of federal funds,
24 to provide \$2,000,000 to Deep East and \$3,000,000 to Southeast to provide services to Laura-
25 impacted participants.
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