**Short Term Training In-Demand Occupations Pilot**
**Discussion Paper**

**Background**

Texas has experienced significant job growth over many consecutive months, and employers statewide require more skilled workers in a variety of industries and specializations. Individuals often need an industry-recognized credential to be eligible for hire, and short-term training programs are ideal for expediting the transition to employment. Texas State Technical College (TSTC) operates 10 campuses and has established curricula to provide training in highly specialized, advanced, and emerging technical and vocational areas. TSTC is a strong partner in providing workforce training, sharing one of the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) goals of connecting Texans to good jobs through short-term training.

**Issue**

To support upskilling Texans and providing talent to employers, staff proposes creating a pilot partnership with TSTC for training in high-demand occupations. Training will be targeted to areas of the state with existing opportunities in those in-demand fields, and funding will be focused on providing established curricula to identified students. TSTC may directly provide support services or subgrant funds to Local Workforce Development Boards so that they may provide support services and recruitment support to their local workforce development areas. Participants must be Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible (that is, at least 18 years of age, authorized to work in the United States, and meet Selective Service requirements). Trainings must offer an industry-recognized credential, support an in-demand career in the region (or statewide), and be completed in 16 weeks or less.

**Recommendations**

Staff recommends that TWC's three-member Commission approve funding for a one-year pilot training program with TSTC, with the possibility of a one-year renewal. WIOA funds in the amount of $3 million will be available to support the target of training 500 individuals.