

1 **Texas Foster Youth Network Funding Modification**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 On September 11, 2023, the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission
5 approved \$4 million in combined Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and
6 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds (\$3 million in WIOA and \$1 million in
7 TANF) to create a Texas Foster Youth Network.

8 The Texas Foster Youth Network initiative will support the development of a statewide network
9 composed of organizations whose missions includes providing services and support to Foster
10 Youth and former Foster Youth. The purpose of the Texas Foster Youth Network (the Network)
11 initiatives is to create opportunities to share referral and service information that allow for
12 coordination of services.

13 **Issue**

14 Staff believe the program will be better supported if solely through WIOA statewide funds.
15 Doing so will improve both program flexibility and year-over-year sustainability, and in turn
16 affirm TWC’s commitment to supporting Texas foster youth.

17 **Decision Point(s)**

18 Staff recommends the addition of \$1 million in WIOA statewide funds to the Texas Foster Youth
19 Network initiative to replace the previously approved TANF funds to ensure the Network is fully
20 funded at the level previously approved by the Commission.