

1 **Discussion Paper –Funding Request for COVID-19 Skills Grants**

2 **Background**

3 At the April 14, 2020 meeting, Commissioners approved a series of funding recommendations
4 including up to \$10 million in Skills Development Funds (SDF) to support training in high
5 demand occupations with priority given to training in the healthcare, manufacturing, and IT
6 sectors retooling business processes in direct response to needs identified by COVID-19.

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8 To date, 50 grants have been awarded totaling \$9,947,500 across a variety of sectors. These
9 grants are projected to train 5,326 workers, with 1,006 workers currently in training, and 743
10 workers already trained since these grants began in early May. A new streamlined application
11 was introduced as part of this process and it has been successful in getting training started
12 quickly for business partners with critical and time sensitive training needs.

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14 **Issue**

15 In the last two weeks, three new applications for funding have been received, and six active
16 grants are requesting additional funds to meet training demand, pushing the amount of funding
17 needed in excess of the \$10 million approved on April 14.

18 Due to the success of these grants and the ongoing need for COVID-19 training for employers,
19 staff are seeking additional funds in support of this special initiative. We estimate that at least
20 2,500 additional workers will be trained with these additional funds, and the requirement for
21 training to begin within 30 days of grant award remains in effect.

22 **Decision**

23 Staff seek Commission approval for up to \$5 million for use across FY2020 and FY 2021 Skills
24 Development Fund (SDF) funds for COVID-19 Skills grants.