**Catalyzing Innovations in Teacher Leader Development in Rural and Urban Settings**

New Teacher Center (NTC) and its rural partners, the Southeast/South-Central Education Cooperative and the Niswonger Consortium of School Systems, along with its urban partners, Hillsborough County Public Schools and the Houston Independent School District, evaluation partner, SRI International, and resource efficiency partner, Education Resource Strategies, respectfully submit this 5-year proposal for the EIR Expansion program, responding to **Absolute Priority 1** (Strong Evidence) and **Absolute Priority 2** (Field-Initiated Innovations). This project takes an exceptional approach to address the problem of the national student achievement gap by disrupting how schools structure, resource, and implement an instructional coaching (IC) program, in order to ensure a sustained focus on improving student learning. NTC proposes to scale its IC program district- and consortia-wide across four partner sites in urban and rural settings, employing a gradual-release strategy over four phases to ensure there is a focus on capacity building and change management. This project will support 8,600 K-12 teachers and 133,000 K-12 students (66% of whom are high-need, as they qualify for the federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program), where over 55% of the total schools served are designated rural. The goals of this project are to: 1) Build a sustainable and cost-effective teacher development strategy that partner sites own and lead; 2) Build the capacity of school leaders to support and sustain instructionally-focused teacher support; 3) Select, train, and support coaches to provide ongoing instructionally-focused coaching; 4) Provide exceptional instructional support for teachers; and 5) Ensure timely data is shared across stakeholder groups to understand progress and course correct. Outcomes include: (1) Increased proficiency in Framework for Teaching components under classroom environment and instruction; (2) Improved student achievement in ELA, math and science; and (3) Increased site capacity to replicate and sustain IC.