**Abstract Narrative**

**Title:** Refining and Expanding HEROES: A Literacy Intervention for Young Students with IEPs  
**Type of Grant:** Mid-Phase  
**Absolute Priorities:** AP1: Moderate Evidence and AP2: Field-Initiated Innovations – General.  
**Target Number of Students To Be Served in the Project:** At least 1,820.  
**Grade levels:** K–4th.  
**Definition of High-Needs:** 6-9 year olds with individualized educational plans for reading (IEPs).  
**Brief Project Description:** The overall goal is to expand, refine, and ascertain the impact of HEROES, a literacy intervention that we created with the support of an Early-Phase Grant (formerly called i3 Development grant)). HEROES is already substantially more effective than current practices which typically result in students remaining on IEPs for their literacy instruction while the gap with their peers continues to grow over time.

**Summary of Project Objectives:** Our key project objectives are to: (1) Serve 1,820 more students (2) Prepare 192 more HEROES teachers (3) Prepare 4 more literacy coaches (4) test HEROES’ face-to face-teacher training method against a hybrid training model (5) Identify the optimal number of lessons per week and the time per lesson. (6) Test HEROES’ 1-1 instructional setting against 1:2. (7) Test a gradient of text level for introducing new books (8) Test procedures for fluent and phrased reading (9) Test if the addition of writing in the lesson framework increases HEROES’ effect.  
**Special Project Features:** Two sub-populations we plan to expand services to include English Learners and students in rural areas. Targeting California schools will greatly increase our efforts to reach EL students who have reading IEPS. We also have partnered with the Ohio Small Rural Collaborative which is a consortium of over 36 small rural school districts in Ohio.  
**Partners:** Clemson University, Georgia State University, and St Mary’s College.