

**U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS
G5-Technical Review Form (New)**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/22/2020 01:52 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	35	34
Significance		
1. Significance	20	19
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	25	24
Sub Total	100	97
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science		
1. CPP1	3	3
Sub Total	3	3
Competitive Preference Priority		
Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development		
1. CPP2	2	1
Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment		
1. CPP3	5	4
Sub Total	7	5
Total	110	105

Technical Review Form

Panel #13 - SEED - 13: 84.423A

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.

(2) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(3) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(4) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

Strengths:

- Pathway proposal for proficient teachers and non-traditional educators that specifically addresses how increasing the number of teachers and providing the appropriate supports will benefit the communities they wish to serve
- Project will provide competency-based teaching endorsements that speak to the quality of the training the teachers will receive to improve their practice
- Project engages traditionally underrepresented groups that are often neglected in education and educational research. By increasing the number of teachers of color who are properly trained in STEM education, the project has the potential to significantly increase the student outcomes for all students
- The RISE Logic Model thoroughly addresses how the project will address its intended goals, activities to meet goals, inputs and outputs, and short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals for the project
- Voorhees comprehensive planning team addresses the gaps and weaknesses associated with improving educator quality and improving student achievement

Weaknesses:

- It would have been helpful to see a list of other measures that will be put in place to support teachers at D and F schools

Reader's Score: 34

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the

proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.

(2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.

(3) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

Strengths:

- The applicant will provide professional learning opportunities and teaching endorsements to 600 certified teachers and non-traditional licensure options to 300 teachers
- Virtual inquiry-based instruction will allow participants the opportunity to identify and conduct root analysis of teaching problems while proposing possible interventions and solutions in these areas (p. e54)
- The project will add to the field on micro-credentials by specifically stating and proving how this concept improves teacher effectiveness and can also be adopted to increase teachers' knowledge in social-emotional learning, mental health, etc. (p. e54)
- Provide access to teachers who have the potential to be highly effective by providing them with the agency to improve student learning with its in-depth residency model (p. e55)
- The dissemination plan addresses how the applicant will share its products, lessons learned, and best practices through a newly launched website that will include white papers that discuss the implementation of the project, grant managers, peer reviewed research articles, social media, teacher and school leader organizations, local communities, and regional summits (p. e56-57)

Weaknesses:

- Lack of a plan to address teachers who may be deemed developing but have potential

Reader's Score: 19

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.

(2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

Strengths:

- The applicant has developed a management plan that features a strong continuous improvement plan that addresses each intended goal with specific outcomes (p. e57)
- Teachers, administrators, families, students, and community will have equal access to participate in activities designed through RISE (p. e58)
- Applicant has linked each line item of the budget to a specific service, priority, or grant component to achieve intended goals (p. e58)
- An advisory board inclusive of project directors, teachers, administrators, faculty advisors will meet quarterly to

monitor the project for continuous improvement (p. e60)

- The qualifications for each person responsible for the project implementation as well as their responsibilities are very clear and precise (p. e61-e62)
- Timeline listed on p. e63-e64 speaks very specifically to activity, responsible party, and milestones for each element of the grant

Weaknesses:

None noted

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the WWC standards with or without reservations as described in the WWC Handbook.

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

(3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible

Strengths:

- EduShift is serving as the external agency for evaluation to link data analysis, data collection, feedback and continuous growth of all partners in the program (p. e66)
- Evaluation plan will include a comparison of treatment and control group educators, propensity score matching, examination of outcomes for participants and their students to meet WWC standards with reservations (p. e68).
- ANCOVA will be used to assure there are no surprising factors between the treatment and control group in accordance with WWC standards with reservations (p. e69)
- Effectiveness rubrics, site visits, student performance scores, stakeholder surveys, completion and enrollment rates are some factors used to provide feedback on the project implementation (p. e70-71)
- EduShift will work closely with the applicant to disseminate results, feedback and evaluation data to all stakeholders for continuous improvement toward its outcomes (p. e72)

Weaknesses:

- A clear description of how RISE will increase postsecondary enrollments, graduation rates, and ELA, math, and science scores on SC assessments separate from other educational measures is needed
- Lack of description of the correlation between the improvement of ELA scores and the RISE project

Reader's Score: 24

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority - Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science

1. **Projects designed to improve student achievement or other educational outcomes in science, technology, engineering, math, or Computer Science. These projects must address increasing the number of educators adequately prepared to deliver rigorous instruction in STEM fields, including Computer Science, through recruitment, Evidence-Based professional development strategies for current STEM educators, or Evidence-Based retraining strategies for current educators seeking to transition from other subjects to STEM fields.**

Strengths:

- The project clearly outlines how it is designed to improve student achievement by providing alternative licensure pathways to teachers
- Seeks to adequately prepare and deliver rigorous instruction to 900 teachers

Weaknesses:

None noted

Reader's Score: 3

Competitive Preference Priority - Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development

1. **Projects that are designed to support projects likely to improve student academic performance and better prepare students for employment, responsible citizenship, and fulfilling lives, including by preparing children or students to:**

- (i) Develop positive personal relationships with others.
- (ii) Develop determination, perseverance, and the ability to overcome obstacles.
- (iii) Develop self-esteem through perseverance and earned success.
- (iv) Develop problem-solving skills.
- (v) Develop self-regulation in order to work toward long-term goals.

Strengths:

- Project seeks to increase STEM skills and digital literacy of educators and students to prepare students to enter into a STEM workforce

Weaknesses:

- Social emotional learning is implied in the narrative but not specifically stated.

Reader's Score: 1

Competitive Preference Priority - Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment

1. **Under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the following:**

- (a) **The area in which the applicant proposes to provide services overlaps with a QOZ, as designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 1400Z-1 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). An applicant must—**
 - (i) **Provide the census tract number of the QOZ(s) in which it proposes to provide services; and**
 - (ii) **Describe how the applicant will provide services in the QOZ(s).**

Strengths:

- Census tract numbers provided (p. e8)
- Provides great detail the services provided in QOZs

Weaknesses:

- It would have helped if the applicant would have provided details on how the services provided by the project will enhance entire communities in the QOZs

Reader's Score: 4

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Status: Submitted

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Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	35	33
Significance		
1. Significance	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	19
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	25	23
Sub Total	100	95
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science		
1. CPP1	3	3
Sub Total	3	3
Competitive Preference Priority		
Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development		
1. CPP2	2	1
Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment		
1. CPP3	5	5
Sub Total	7	6
Total	110	104

Technical Review Form

Panel #13 - SEED - 13: 84.423A

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.

(2) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(3) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(4) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

Strengths:

-The applicant outlined how they advance equity in the field of education by equipping teachers with the skills needed to reach all students. This is done by dismantling the barriers that create a greater division in the achievement gap in teaching and learning.

-The applicant identified a comprehensive residency model that incorporates six tenets of improving science. This is unique because teachers will learn how to conduct a root cause analysis and share problems of practice through collaboration. e42

-The applicant provided a clear understanding of the needs and the gaps in the education field. Additionally, the applicant outlined how the program would address these gaps by using the RISE Improvement strategies. e41

-The applicant's program planning team developed a Logic Model that grounds RISE in strong theory aligned to evidence of effectiveness. The model highlights the program's purpose, activities and benefits of ongoing work beyond the grant. The applicant detailed short-term, mid-term and long-term outcomes. E39

Weaknesses:

-The applicant did not give a clear understanding of what indicators are measured for schools to be an "F" or "D" school. This information would've been helpful to ensure the program is meeting the school's needs.

Reader's Score: 33

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the

significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.
- (2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.
- (3) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

Strengths:

- The applicant's program will expand the impact of virtual improvement by integrating the structured, proven professional learning process of Improvement Science into virtual learning supports. RISE will create places for subgroups of education stakeholders to meet and maximize the magnitude of outcomes related to educator's effectiveness gained through virtual professional learning.
- The applicant promoted the increased equity, virtual learning supports, and inquiry-based professional development. Each are components that are critical in addressing the equity gap in education. Additionally, equity is a driving force motivating the continued education work of Voorhees College and The Institute for Organizational Coherence.
- The applicant's program will measure the effectiveness of the professional learning model designed to improve educators' performance in relationship to problems of practice that impact student outcomes.
- The applicant's program "RISE" seeks to advance theories, knowledge, and practice in the field of education by preparing teachers who have the potential to be highly effective in their practice and foster a shared culture of competence. By doing this, the program participants will be able to leverage the collective expertise to go "further faster" in eradicating achievement gaps.

The applicant had a clear dissemination plan for the program including multiple modes of communication to reach all stakeholders.

Weaknesses:

No weakness identified

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
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 - (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.
 - (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.

Strengths:

- The applicant detailed clear roles and responsibilities for all personnel included in the program to ensure that each member was qualified. The program also included a timeline with milestones. Additionally, each implementation activity detailed the person or group responsible and specified the month and date of activity.
- The applicant provided an appropriate structured grant management plan that includes Equal Access, Timely Implementation, Budget Oversight, Procedures, Personnel, Timeline, Feedback and Engaging under-represented groups. These eight components will ensure timely completion of grant activities and promote continuous improvement.
- The applicant included an advisory council to monitor progress, ensure fidelity, and assess milestones. The advisory board serves as a critical management oversight structure that will provide stakeholders with a voice. These members from traditionally underrepresented subgroups will ensure a diversity of perspectives influence the planning, implementation and continuous improvement of RISE.
- The applicant highlighted the importance of feedback from all stakeholders therefore RISE includes a feedback mechanism for all members on the program team. Additionally, there are also continuous improvement strategies for all members of the program team. This feedback and continuous improvement will be given to the project leadership team to make changes and corrections in a timely manner.

Weaknesses:

The applicant was unclear that the goals, objectives and outcomes can be assessed using the measures and data sources. e57

Reader's Score: 19

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the WWC standards with or without reservations as described in the WWC Handbook.**
- (2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.**
- (3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible**

Strengths:

- The applicant used an external evaluation team to strengthen the validity and reliability of the study. The external evaluation EduShift will generate the data and feedback needed to facilitate continuous improvement and sustainability of effectiveness programming components. The evaluation methods include Evaluation Oversight, Evaluation Methodology and design meets WWC standards.
- The evaluation will include randomized control assessments of outcomes through comparison of treatment and control group educators. EduShift will use a propensity-score matching (PSM) approach designed to meet WWC standards with reservations.

-The applicants' evaluators will solicit feedback from all stakeholder groups to ensure participants provide valuable data needed to thoroughly assess outcomes and inform decision-making procedures.

-The applicant justified the evaluation methodology by using a four tiers framework. The evaluators will utilize the research-based FORECAST model (FORmative Evaluation, Consultation, and System Techniques) as an objective evaluation structure. Additionally, the FORECAST Action model outlines an evaluation process and timeline for completing key evaluation tasks to ensure data is collected consistently across participating Fellows and the schools/districts in which they are placed.

Weaknesses:

-The applicant indicated that Indicator 1.1a is to increase ELA proficiency rates of students of RISE educators; however, the program does not address how it directly impacts ELA assessments. E73

Reader's Score: 23

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority - Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science

- 1. Projects designed to improve student achievement or other educational outcomes in science, technology, engineering, math, or Computer Science. These projects must address increasing the number of educators adequately prepared to deliver rigorous instruction in STEM fields, including Computer Science, through recruitment, Evidence-Based professional development strategies for current STEM educators, or Evidence-Based retraining strategies for current educators seeking to transition from other subjects to STEM fields.**

Strengths:

-The applicant expressed a clear understanding how the program will provide competency-based teaching endorsements and a micro-credential in computer science, pedagogy, innovation, and intervention. The application detailed how the teachers will have access to multiple learning strategies to effectively use technology as a tool to engage students and differentiate instruction.

Weaknesses:

-No weakness identified

Reader's Score: 3

Competitive Preference Priority - Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development

- 1. Projects that are designed to support projects likely to improve student academic performance and better prepare students for employment, responsible citizenship, and fulfilling lives, including by preparing children or students to:**
 - (i) Develop positive personal relationships with others.**
 - (ii) Develop determination, perseverance, and the ability to overcome obstacles.**
 - (iii) Develop self-esteem through perseverance and earned success.**
 - (iv) Develop problem-solving skills.**
 - (v) Develop self-regulation in order to work toward long-term goals.**

Strengths:

-The applicant included real-world applications combined with formal and informal learning in schools, the community, and the workplace.

Weaknesses:

-The applicant did not clearly identify how the program will build self-esteem and cultivate positive relationships. The applicant provided no evidence in this section.

Reader's Score: 1

Competitive Preference Priority - Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment

1. Under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the following:

(a) The area in which the applicant proposes to provide services overlaps with a QOZ, as designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 1400Z-1 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). An applicant must—

(i) Provide the census tract number of the QOZ(s) in which it proposes to provide services; and

(ii) Describe how the applicant will provide services in the QOZ(s).

Strengths:

-The applicant adequately provided the census tract numbers of the QOZs that they plan to serve. Additionally, the applicant detailed each school district and county.

Weaknesses:

-No weakness identified

Reader's Score: 5

Status: Submitted

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Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/22/2020 11:08 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Reader #3: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	35	35
Significance		
1. Significance	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	25	25
Sub Total	100	100
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science		
1. CPP1	3	3
Sub Total	3	3
Competitive Preference Priority		
Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development		
1. CPP2	2	2
Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment		
1. CPP3	5	5
Sub Total	7	7
Total	110	110

Technical Review Form

Panel #13 - SEED - 13: 84.423A

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: Voorhees College (S423A200047)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition.

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(3) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs.

(4) The potential and planning for the incorporation of project purposes, activities, or benefits into the ongoing work of the applicant beyond the end of the grant.

Strengths:

- The project design includes creative ways to attract, screen, and educate teachers to the profession. These approaches must be considered if we are to supply the schools with highly competent classroom teachers.p.9
- The applicant plans to focus on academic content that serves to develop better math and science content that can lead to promising STEM outcomes.
- The applicant plans to align highly effective teaching with the kind of delivery that supports the needs of students from underrepresented groups. This is notable as it should improve student achievement.
- The applicant proposes to develop teachers who are identifying problems of practice and using data to analyze issues in the classroom. This will improve teachers' delivery of academic materials. P12
- Teachers receiving guidance and support from outstanding educators who are Nationally Board Certified as virtual coaches helps to strengthen the practice of novice teachers particularly.
- The project responds to all stakeholders, including the families of the targeted population. P.22
- Micro credentials have been developed as a tool to identify and support educators who possess additional skills in the field.
- RISE will document and share the results of this project with other school districts, colleges, and educators and will publish research

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 35

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project. In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially improvements in teaching and student achievement.**
- (2) The potential contribution of the proposed project to the development and advancement of theory, knowledge, and practices in the field of study.**
- (3) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.**

Strengths:

- Equity is a concept we have not been able to achieve in most of our schools. However, this concept is at the center of this project design.
- The Project has been able to identify barriers to the delivery of equitable resources that greatly affect the achievement and aspirations of children residing in QOZs.
- The project includes a focus on virtual learning. With the advent of this pandemic, virtual learning has become an important tool in distributing information and increasing efficiency in terms of delivering educational content. P.27
- The project includes activities for attracting future teachers in a nontraditional pathway. This will increase the needed pool of teachers necessary to teach in our classrooms.
- The applicant proposes plans for supporting teachers through rigorous instruction and a network of support. This can increase their effectiveness in the classroom. P.2
- Developing STEM certificates and mentors for teachers will support teacher content knowledge, thereby increasing student achievement. P.3
- Networking via the educator Excellence Platform and promoting studies through the instructional Clearinghouse are avenues to inform more educators and contribute to the profession.

Weaknesses;

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

- (1) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable.**
- (2) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.**
- (3) The adequacy of procedures for ensuring feedback and continuous improvement in the operation of the proposed project.**

Strengths:

- The timeline of proposed interventions is sufficient enough to result in the recruitment, education, and support of future teachers and others who will be developed with the support of seasoned teachers. P.31
- The partnership Voohees College will establish will serve to improve educator competence while supporting high quality teaching.
- The launching of a web-based clearinghouse to disseminate RISE's best practices can be shared both nationally and internationally. P.32

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the WWC standards with or without reservations as described in the WWC Handbook.

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

(3) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible

Strengths:

- Voohees College will be contracting with EduShift, Inc., who will serve as the external evaluator assessing all aspects of the project including data collection, data analysis, reporting and feedback. P.40 This reviewer believes this to be a necessary part of improving the educational profession.
- Treatment and control groups will be compared to determine the effectiveness of new novice, and experienced teachers assigned to the targeted schools. P.42
- Evaluation of the RISE project will serve to assist in the continuous growth of the program by placing seasoned and prepared novice teachers in classrooms armed with enhanced culturally responsive theory and practices who can make a difference for students from QOZs.

Weaknesses:

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 25

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priority - Promoting STEM Education/Computer Science

1. **Projects designed to improve student achievement or other educational outcomes in science, technology, engineering, math, or Computer Science. These projects must address increasing the number of educators adequately prepared to deliver rigorous instruction in STEM fields, including Computer Science, through recruitment, Evidence-Based professional development strategies for current STEM educators, or Evidence-Based retraining strategies for current educators seeking to transition from other subjects to STEM fields.**

Strengths:

- Purposefully selecting, screening and providing support and coaching for novice teachers entering the field in a new unconventional manner, can make a difference in the way we deliver instruction to underserved student populations.

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 3

Competitive Preference Priority - Fostering Knowledge and Promoting Development

1. **Projects that are designed to support projects likely to improve student academic performance and better prepare students for employment, responsible citizenship, and fulfilling lives, including by preparing children or students to:**

- (i) **Develop positive personal relationships with others.**
- (ii) **Develop determination, perseverance, and the ability to overcome obstacles.**
- (iii) **Develop self-esteem through perseverance and earned success.**
- (iv) **Develop problem-solving skills.**
- (v) **Develop self-regulation in order to work toward long-term goals.**

Strengths:

- Infusing SEL concepts in the delivery of instruction is the core of this project.
- The need to establish Culturally Responsive teaching flows throughout this project.

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 2

Competitive Preference Priority - Spurring Opportunity Zone Investment

1. **Under this priority, an applicant must demonstrate the following:**

- (a) **The area in which the applicant proposes to provide services overlaps with a QOZ, as designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 1400Z-1 of the Internal Revenue**

Code (IRC). An applicant must—

(i) Provide the census tract number of the QOZ(s) in which it proposes to provide services; and

(ii) Describe how the applicant will provide services in the QOZ(s).

Strengths:

- Developing appropriate and culturally responsive teacher practices that will reach students who have been marginalized in the schools, have been addressed in this project carefully. Changing the way we prepare, certify and support teachers with appropriate culturally responsive practices may ultimately reach students who live in QOZs.
- This project identified the counties, schools and the census tract numbers for the areas in which they plan to work. P. 8

Weakness: None noted

Weaknesses:

none noted

Reader's Score: 5

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/22/2020 11:08 AM