Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the nation’s third largest school district serving over 340,000 students in over 600 schools across the city. In recent years, CPS has shown dramatic improvements in student performance. A recent study from Stanford University shows that CPS students achieve the equivalent of six years’ academic growth in only five years’ time, outpacing nearly every other district (Rearden, 2017). These gains are a testament to the hard work, talent, and resilience of the district’s 38,000 employees, more than 21,000 of whom are teachers. However, for many high-needs schools, student achievement remains a challenge. CPS’ five-year vision has meaningfully elevated Talented and Empowered Educators as a strategic priority. Building on the foundation of TSL2017 and commitment from senior leadership, the district is ready to bring a full teacher leadership continuum to scale.

CPS’ proposed grant project, Teachers Lead Chicago (TLC), will support new teachers and empower teacher leaders through meaningful opportunities for professional development and growth. The TLC project will deepen and scale a robust and representative teacher pipeline, creating a structured pathway for CPS graduates and Chicago community members to access scholarship funds, complete college, earn teaching credentials, and start a CPS teaching career (Absolute Priorities 1,2, Competitive Preference Priority 1,2). The initiative will also codify, refine, and scale teacher leadership roles (AP 2, CPP1); develop the districtwide systems around teacher leaders that support their success (AP1, CPP 1,2); pilot new teacher leader roles (AP 1, CPP 1); and reimagine the systems for principal development and evaluation to enhance CPS’ principal Human Capital Management Systems and better support school leaders (AP 1, CPP 1).