Project Title: Teach Chicago is CPS

Project Description: CPS’ proposed project, entitled Pre-Service Teaching Equity Project (P-STEP), will redesign and improve our Pre-Service Teaching (PST) program to address dire teacher shortages and diversify our teaching corps. The eligible partnership between the entities listed below will enhance existing pathways by leveraging the expertise of partnering Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to ensure incoming teachers are highly qualified and well prepared to support CPS students in hard-to-staff schools. Namely, the project will introduce collaboration with faculty across Departments of Education and Arts and Sciences, elevating the quality of induction support for new teachers and meeting the TQP definition of an effective pre-baccalaureate teacher preparation program.

Project Expected Outcomes: During the five-year grant period, P-STEP proposes to 1) provide opportunities for all PSTs to complete field experiences in hard-to-staff CPS schools; 2) equitably place student teachers throughout CPS; 3) improve the PST experience, including improved direct-to-PST training, leading to more PSTs accepting full-time positions in hard-to-staff CPS schools; 4) recruit, train, and retain Cooperating Teachers (CTs) in hard-to-staff schools, with specific attention paid to improving training and recruiting and retaining CTs of color; and 5) streamline efforts within our Talent Office to ensure PSTs from underrepresented groups and those studying high-needs subject areas accept PST placement and full-time employment at hard-to-staff CPS schools.

Project Partners: Project Partners within the eligible partnership include: Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Lead Applicant, High-Need LEA; Gage Park High School and McAuliffe Elementary School, High-Need Schools within the High-Need LEA; Chicago State University (CSU), partner Institution of Higher Education (IHE), including their College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences; Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), partner IHE; and DePaul University, partner IHE.