ABSTRACT

“Investing in a Pipeline of Effective Educators for High-Need Students: Sustaining and Bringing Innovation to Teach For America’s Summer Training Institutes” directly addresses SEED Absolute Priorities 1 and 2 and Competitive Preference Priorities 1, 3, and 4.

Through this project, Teach For America (TFA) will provide high-quality pre-service training to 8,500 PK-12 teachers in all content areas to prepare them to become excellent teachers for high-need students in low-income communities in 52 regions across 36 states and Washington, D.C. Built upon what we have learned in our 25 years of preparing teachers, the training will be geared toward helping novice teachers learn how to lead high-need students achieve significant academic growth and meet rigorous academic standards. Over two years, the program will:

- Train 4,100 diverse teachers for high-needs students at six national and nine regional training institutes in 2015; 70% of whom will subsequently become effective or highly effective in their first year of teaching; 30% of whom will teach STEM subjects
- Train 4,400 diverse teachers for high-needs students at six national and ten regional training institutes in 2016; 71% of whom will subsequently become effective or highly effective in their first year of teaching; 30% of whom will teach STEM subjects
- Pilot and rigorously evaluate a scalable redesigned national institute model in 2016 that, if successful, could lead us to develop even more effective teachers in subsequent years
- Provide enhanced pre-service training to a significant percentage of our pre-K teachers

Expected outcomes:

- Expansion of a national pipeline of 8,500 diverse, rigorously selected new teachers who will reach over 700,000 students in high-need schools in urban and rural communities during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years
- Research-based insights about the impact and scalability of the pilot redesigned national institute model that inform the subsequent evolution of pre-service training at TFA

Through this project, Teach For America will contribute to research, policy, and practice in the field by: (1) generating research-based evidence about the efficacy and scalability of a next-generation approach to teacher training that aims to enable novice teachers more quickly enact pedagogies that more successfully lead students to mastery of rigorous academic standards; (2) sharing insights with other organizations, schools, school districts, and universities to develop strategies, tools, and best practices; and (3) developing more teachers who, informed by their Teach For America experience, will become lifelong leaders in educational policy and practice.

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