Expansion Competition Absolute Priority 2 (General)
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.
S411A220001
CW-FIT Rural Expansion: Gaining More Time to Learn and More Time to Teach in Rural Schools

Applicant Name: University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.

Project Title: CW-FIT Rural Expansion: Gaining More Time to Learn and More Time to Teach in Rural Schools

Type of Grant Requested: (select one) ☐ Early-Phase ☐ Mid-Phase ☒ Expansion-Phase

Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:

☒ Absolute Priority 1

☒ Absolute Priority 2

Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:

☒ Competitive Preference Priority 1

☒ Competitive Preference Priority 2

Total number of students to be served by the project: 24,174

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: K-8

Your definition of high-need students: Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: The University of Kansas with rural partners will expand the evidence-based CW-FIT intervention to rural schools by utilizing a CWFIT Micro-credentialing program embedded in a Rural Coaching Model. Rural Coaches will be trained by CW-FIT Regional Directors and will then, in turn, train teachers. Teachers will then implement CWFIT during ELA instruction.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: The proposed five-year project has two goals: 1) Expand CW-FIT to rural schools across the country by implementing a Rural Coaching Model and utilizing a CW-FIT Micro-Credentialing program; 2) Contribute to the CW-FIT evidence-base for classroom management in rural schools for: (a) improving academic engagement and achievement for high-needs K-8th grade students in rural elementary and middle schools; and (b) improving teachers' classroom management in these schools. A multi-site cluster RCT conducted by WestEd (an independent evaluator) will compare outcomes for rural students in CW-FIT classes to students in classrooms implementing usual supports for improving student academic engagement and achievement.

Data collected from implementing partners will assist in identifying school-level assets and barriers to inform future expansion.

Describe how the proposed project is innovative: This project is highly innovative with a CW-FIT Micro-credentialing program and rural coaching model utilizing TORSH, a system to facilitate online coaching, fidelity and program monitoring.

Identify other studies and/practice related to the proposed project: 3 RCTs of CW-FIT have demonstrated strong positive outcomes across grades K-8 (see Kamps et al., 2015; Wills et al., 2016; Caldarella et al., 2018; Wills et al., 2021).

Proposed implementation sites: The RCT will be conducted across 120 schools (grades K-8) in rural school districts (NCES District codes 32, 33, 41-43) within our 7 state partners: California, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Tennessee, and Texas.

List all organizations partnering with this project: University of Kansas, WestEd, and 7 National Rural Education State Affiliates along with 72 Rural LEAs located throughout California, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Tennessee, and Texas.