

## Simple Overview of the CTE Research Team application

This one pager provides a quick overview as to what you should keep in mind as you write your CTE Research Team application. Please refer to the RFA for the specifics of what should be included in your application.

*Remember that the purpose of each research team, working in collaboration with the other research teams in the network, is to begin to document the landscape of available secondary level career development opportunities (CDOs) in large districts, identify which CDOs show promise (descriptively) for improving learner outcomes, and determine which CDOs have a positive impact (causally) on learner outcomes.*

Your application should focus mostly on the exploratory study. Here are some pointers:

- ✓ Do you have a large urban or suburban district partner for your exploratory study? (Include a letter of support in Appendix E)
- ✓ Does it offer a variety of CDOs that you can document/describe?
- ✓ Is there variation in how the CDOs are implemented across schools in the district?
- ✓ Is there variation in the type and number of learners who use the CDO?
- ✓ Can you link participation of learners in CDOs with outcome data (correlationally)?

Write your exploratory research plan about how you will look at what proportion of learners participate in each CDO, equity of access to and use of the CDOs, and the relationship between participation (including dosage) and outcomes. You will likely need to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.

Write your impact research plan around how you will determine during Year 1 which, if any, of the CDOs in the exploratory study shows promise for benefitting learners.

- ✓ Write about how you will find another setting in which to conduct the impact study if there are no promising CDOs in your exploratory study setting.
- ✓ Write about how you will decide what kind of causal impact study can be done on the CDO and how you might conduct it (depending on sample size, oversubscription, data availability etc.)
- ✓ Include information on how you will document implementation and cost of the CDO.
- ✓ Include personnel who have experience conducting both exploratory and impact studies.