

APA/WestEd Follow-up Information
September 30, 2019 Education Committees Meeting

- The omission of Dr. Taylor as a subcontractor – what was the reason for removing her from your previous proposal?

Response:

- The study team made significant modifications to our prior submission in response to the Committees' changes in the current RFP. One of the key changes to the RFP was the exclusion of the requirement to implement an adequacy cost study. As such, we have eliminated all three adequacy studies (professional judgment, cost function, and successful school district approaches) from our current proposed scope of work, as the new RFP clearly does not call for any recommendations on specific adequacy amounts. Dr. Lori Taylor from Texas A&M was included as a subcontractor to support the cost function adequacy approach in the prior submission. Without the required use of these approaches, the corresponding resources for the studies were excluded, including the subcontract with Dr. Taylor.
 - Similarly, we did not include the support of Dr. Chris Stoddard, who was contracted to support the cost of living differences study in the prior RFP which is no longer required as part of the current RFP. We also have removed Dr. Sara Kraemer and reduced the support needed from our other subcontractors to allow for the inclusion of a local university partner and to align the level of support to the scope of the new RFP.
 - Further, WestEd's team in this current proposal includes Dr. Darius Taylor, a WestEd staff member, who appeared to have been confused with Dr. Lori Taylor during the last meeting of the Committees.
- APA stated in your proposal that you will have a local university partner – which university will that be?

Response: Prior to the submittal of our proposal, we spoke with and received confirmation that The University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, School of Education would be willing to work with the study team to support stakeholder engagement if the contract was awarded.