

Dear {{First Name}} {{Last Name}},

Congratulations! Your pre-proposal submission, **{{Project Name}}**, has been selected as a finalist in the 2019-2020 Big Ideas Contest in the **{{Track}}** social impact track! The Big Ideas Contest received over 400 applications and your team was among approximately 40 selected for the final round. We believe your idea has great potential, and we look forward to working with you as you develop your full proposal! Please carefully review and complete the following next steps to move forward in the final round:

- **Please confirm your participation (by 12pm PT, Friday, January 3)**: Please reply to this email and confirm that your team is 100% committed to submitting up to a 8-page full proposal, and 90-second elevator pitch video, by the March 13, 2020 deadline. Full proposal application requirements will be found on the Big Ideas website starting in mid-January.
- **Review the Judges' Feedback**: During their reviews, judges provided constructive advice on how teams can strengthen their proposals. We highly recommend that you review this prior to filling out the mentor matching application. Here are comments from judges who reviewed your submission: **{{Feedback}}**
- **Fill out mentor matching application (by 12pm PT, Friday, January 3)**: **Only teams who are fully committed to the mentorship process should fill out a mentor matching application.** Teams should be committed to devote between 1-2 hours per week, between *January 26 and March 13*, to work with their assigned mentor. Mentor matching will be prioritized in the order in which applications are received, so teams are encouraged to fill out the form as soon as possible. Most finalist teams requesting mentors will receive an introductory mentor match email prior to *the Final Round Kickoff event on January 27*.
- **Final Round Kickoff event**: All finalists from UC campuses should mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 26, from 5pm to 7pm (PT) for the Big Ideas Final Round Kickoff at UC Berkeley.** At least one member of all Bay Area teams is required to participate in-person, but the event will be live-streamed for remote teams (UC Davis, Merced, and Santa Cruz teams are also encouraged to join in person as well.

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. In the meantime, we congratulate you again and wish you a very Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Phillip Denny
Director, [Big Ideas Contest](#)
[Blum Center for Developing Economies](#)
Office: +1.510.666.9120



Email Notifications to Finalists and Non-Finalists

Dear {{First Name}} {{Last Name}},

Thank you for your recent pre-proposal application to the 2019-2020 Big Ideas Contest.

We are sorry to inform you that your project, **{{Project Name}}**, was not selected to move on to the final round of the Contest. Please do not consider this decision a reflection on the quality or merit of your idea. The decision-making process was an especially difficult one this year, as the Contest received a record number of applications that were, as a whole, the most competitive and compelling ever.

We will send the judge feedback on your proposal by the end of January and our team is happy to brainstorm how to move your project forward, and/or review the feedback with you. As a reminder, Big Ideas advising services remain open throughout the year, regardless of final round status. We encourage you to take advantage of these and other Big Ideas resources, and reapply to the Contest next year after incorporating the feedback, or with a new idea altogether.

Thank you again for committing your time and energy towards solving some of society's greatest challenges. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or if we can support you as you move forward.

Best regards,

Phillip Denny
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[Blum Center for Developing Economies](#)
Office: +1.510.666.9120

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