

Dear,

I'm responding to your recent letter informing me that our proposal was rejected and inviting us to apply for the next round. The invitation indicated a need to describe the scalability of our innovation. I am confused, as I thought we had described this clearly in our last proposal. Our innovation is the co-invented school and the cooperative, collaborative model of development. The scalability is that there are many universities in the US as well as many small villages in developing countries for whom this would serve as a model. The product would be international social fabric and connectivity as well as the education received by both parties. In my studies of development, I find education and community organization to be a well-established and compelling way out of poverty. In that sense, I am very pleased with our innovation as well as the scalability, and would have thought it fits ideally within the priorities espoused by NCIIA. I understand that "scalability" can also refer to a model whereby production is ramped up and merchandise is distributed widely resulting in large profits. It seems to me that promoting this model of innovation in developing countries is trying to solve a problem with the same mechanism that caused it, but I am willing to acknowledge that this may be narrow of me.

Please clarify for me so I understand. Is NCIIA open to our model of scalability? If it is, please evaluate our most recent proposal again in this new light as soon as possible, as this proposal represents the third time we applied for the grant under Jennifer Keller Jackson's encouragement, and I don't think we could represent our efforts and goals better than we have therein. If your model is not open to include our model of scalability, then please accept my position is that our project is distinct from what you support. I look forward to your response.