

# #NCBigIdea – The Method to the Madness

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We tried to keep it brief and share the key points on our website. But we also know that some of you may want to understand how the whole process will work so that you can see where your contributions fit in. So, here's the nitty-gritty in a nutshell:

1. We ask for big ideas through the end of July (calling all procrastinators—that means 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2017).
2. IEI staff will review all of the ideas submitted, eliminate any that do not meet the criteria, combine similar ideas, etc. Our goal is to identify ten ideas that could become the feature of an upcoming Emerging Issues Forum topic.
3. Over the summer, members of [IEI's National Advisory Board](#) will further narrow these ideas down to about five.
4. IEI will then work with a small group of funders, policy makers, board members, and others to determine which of these five ideas are best positioned (timely, feasible, etc.) to be featured as an upcoming Forum topic. We're hoping to end up with three to choose from.
5. In March 2018, the North Carolina public will hear more about the final three ideas, and decide which one will become a new Forum topic—*think March Madness meets the Bachelor, with one final topic receiving the coveted rose.*
6. Oh – and it's important to us here at IEI that we're completely transparent about the process, posting which big ideas are making the cut along the way, and who we're partnering with to make those decisions. We'll also be working with statewide media partners to get as many people across the state involved in choosing the next **#NCBigIdea**.

Still have questions? No problem – we're here to help! Just contact IEI Policy Manager Sarah Langer Hall at [smlanger@ncsu.edu](mailto:smlanger@ncsu.edu). She's pretty excited about crowd sourcing IEI's next big idea—plus she's really nice. So feel free to reach out to her with any of your questions.