

Location: City of Fairfield

Issue: Public Budgeting

Methodology: Facilitated Meetings

Davenport Institute: 2010 Public Engagement Grant Recipient

Like many cities in California, the City of Fairfield was hard hit by the recession in 2007-2009. Even after cutting staff and reorganizing services, the City continued to face an ongoing deficit and the difficult trade-off decisions that come with it.

Realizing these difficult decisions required input from the community, Fairfield reached out to its citizens through an online engagement campaign headed by Communications Manager Gale Spears and Program Manager David White, both of whom have previous experience leading public engagement efforts in the City. The online component was made part of a larger “Priority-Based Budgeting” effort. The city would use an online platform, supported by the Davenport Institute, to gather and prioritize resident feedback.

You can see the City’s budget webpage [here](#).

Information was used in conjunction with the City’s Core Services Review to “prioritize programs and services, develop potential revenue measures, and explore partnerships.” The City recognizes the importance of such input to develop “authentic and accessible” solutions in these difficult financial times.