

Location: Humboldt County

Issue: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update

Methodology: Facilitated Meetings

Davenport Institute: 2012 Public Engagement Grant Recipient

In 2012, the County of Humboldt launched Prosperity 2012: a countywide community engagement aimed at updating the County's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Early that year, the County hosted a number of public meetings and convened 19 Citizen Action Teams that offered numerous recommendations to address the County's economic situation. Prosperity 2012 focused on a number of goals:

- To increase resident knowledge of how the economy works
- To generate citizen ideas for how to build a healthy community and economy
- To refine and synthesize ideas into a viable CEDS that would guide residents, government, business, and non-profit investments in the economy
- To structure and facilitate opportunities for residents to engage constructively with decision makers.

The Davenport Institute grant began supporting the process during the final decision-making stage. As the county put it in their grant application, "We want each citizen – whether parent, student, business owner, worker, policy maker – to see an action they could take to build a more prosperous economy. Business will be able to invest where they can make a difference. Non-profit organizations will craft and implement solutions. Government entities will allocate resources for coordinated implementation."

The plan, and the public engagement process that made it possible were featured in an article from the California Economic Summit, which you can read [here](#).

You can visit the Prosperity 2012 website [here](#).