

**Location: City of La Mesa**

**Issue: Teen Services**

**Methodology: Facilitated Meetings**

**Davenport Institute: 2011 Public Engagement Grant Recipient**

Tight budgets mean tough trade offs, but sometimes a city realizes it has traded too much. In 2011, the City of La Mesa realized that it had been neglecting youth services as limited funds were focused on a more vocal and involved aging population.

As it sought to remedy this imbalance, the city also recognized that budget limitations aren't going away anytime soon. The City reached out to see what services local teens themselves prioritized and which they would most utilize.

To do this the City organized a Teen Summit. In preparation, teen members of the city's existing Youth Advisory Commission were offered facilitation training alongside City staff so that they could assist in leading table exercises with participants as well as in evaluating results of the summit and developing action plans based on those results.

Summit participants prioritized issues like bullying and peer pressure along with suggested solutions to be presented to the City Council.

*Phases*

*Outcomes*