

**Location: City of Rancho Cordova**

**Issue: Growing Strong Neighborhoods**

**Methodology: Facilitated Meetings**

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

In 2006 the City of Rancho Cordova introduced the Growing Strong Neighborhoods (GSN) initiative to “improve the quality of life in Rancho Cordova and increase property values by encouraging residents and business owners to enhance their homes, property, street, and community.”

When the City applied for a Davenport Institute Civic Engagement Grant, the GSN had already developed – based on external research – a dashboard of metrics that could be used to measure community health. These looked at 7 indicators:

1. Crime
2. Schools
3. Poverty/Economics
4. Housing Quality
5. Growth
6. Transportation Accessibility
7. Aesthetics and Recreation.

As the GSN sought to encourage programs from both the City government and the community itself to measure and improve such metrics, they sought to begin a conversation with residents. As their grant application noted “It is vital that residents participate in defining and improving the metrics from their neighborhoods that they want. Citizen engagement will help us to better understand the needs of our residents in order to assist and empower them to improve areas of opportunity that mean the most to them.”

You can visit the Growing Strong Neighborhoods website [here](#).

*Phases*

*Outcomes*