

Innovative Budgeting Tools



MAKING A LOT WITH A LITTLE



The intent of this project was to gain public input early into the budget process by increasing civic engagement activities. We wanted to be transparent regarding the status of the budget and to solicit input from the community on tough decisions while they were still being made. Humboldt County's innovative solution to this challenge was its Interactive Multi-Site Community Meeting. This was an interactive meeting held on one night in five locations. In years past, Humboldt County held five to seven budget meetings in the evenings over a two-week period in different locations throughout the County. We found the effort spent on these meetings over the extended period of time did not produce the advanced input we sought. We needed an innovative, yet cost-effective way to hold these meetings early in the budget process and gain more involvement from the community. Specifically, we wanted to: Hold one night of meetings; Simultaneously include each of the five supervisorial districts; Allow members of the community to share in open dialogue with each other and their Supervisors while having the ability to see and hear participants at all locations; Reach beyond just the one night of live meetings and allow individuals to participate from the comfort of their homes; Broadcast the meeting live on public access television, replay it at a later date and stream the video on the internet; Provide easy opportunities for citizens to give input into the budget process. To pull a meeting of this scale off with little-to-no budget required advanced planning and aligning the right partners.

Value of Crises

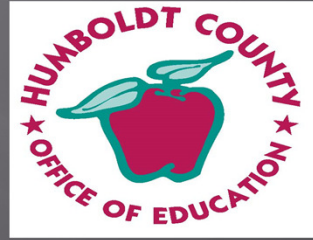


Challenges





PARTNERSHIPS



Blue Lake Union
School District



OUTCOMES



Come “Hangout”

When: Thursday, February 26, 2015

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: <http://www.humboldt.gov.org>