



Executive Memo

To: Jessica Sotello, Executive Director, Partners for Prosperity
From: Ken Bullock, Accounting and Database Manager
Date: March 12, 2005
Re: Database

Objective

One of the goals of Partners for Prosperity is to create a database for the purpose of finding, securing, and developing information useful to our organization and beneficial to partners throughout the region. We are well on our way establishing a site capable of providing valuable information for Partners for Prosperity as well as regional partners. Our staff is looking into the most reliable system to house the database and website including:

1. storing the data
2. providing enough resources to make it easy to find
3. identifying useful data
4. extracting reliable information for a variety of users

Identification

We are establishing a secure website with enough capacity to handle the size and volume of use anticipated in the near future. A webmaster has been hired to help design, implement, and maintain a website for the entire region as well as other areas in Idaho. We are establishing external links to other websites for easy navigation throughout the community. We are identifying users and providers to help make this a regional website. One of the immediate goals of this website is to help identify sources of information, understand the types of information available, and include it in the website as sources of data or links to other websites.

Data Procurement

We are in the process of negotiating with different agencies to analyze provided data for accuracy, timeliness, and usefulness for sharing in a regional database. One of our main goals is to help interpret existing data and make recommendations to different organizations for data improvement. We are inviting other organizations to provide different sources of information. This will help give us an historical snapshot of their organization, current data collection system, and benchmarks helping us establish a point of reference for future evaluations and measurement of progress. Our goal is to have the links to five other organizations by 4/01/2005.

Analysis of Database

One of our goals is to help regional partners understand data and its usefulness as it relates to the reduction of poverty in Eastern Idaho. As we make the information available on the website, we will establish a way of tracking the demographics of the users of the website. We want to see who is using the information provided and adjust the site for



effectiveness and needs. We will want to determine the reasons of interest in the Website; whether the user is a provider or someone in need.

Standardize Information

We are attempting to identify core data which all agencies can use and provide to standardize information for comparison, usefulness, and relevance. Partners for Prosperity is also asking for input from our regional partners to help identify information we could collect but are not doing so at present.

Long Range Goals

As we move forward with the database, the information we have at our disposal, and also the vast data we still need to track, will become more apparent as we move forward with this challenge. We will be adding portals to our website as new partners show interest and trust in our system. We will also help develop ways to query the data for useful information of interested parties.

Training for other agencies, especially non-profit organizations will be developed and shared throughout the region. We will help them to see the need to identify, record, and evaluate useful data.