



Executive Memo

To: **Jessica Sotelo, Executive Director, Partners for Prosperity**
CC: **Ramona Higley, Ph.D., Research Specialist, Partners for Prosperity**
From: **Henry Evans, Research Specialist, Partners for Prosperity**
Date: **4/12/2005**
Re: **Initial Meeting of the Prosperity Indicators Working Group and Preliminary Recommendations**

The Partners for Prosperity (P4P) Indicators Working Group convened its first meeting on February, 17, 2005. Working closely with the Primary and Secondary Data Working Group, the Prosperity Indicators Working Group's general purpose is to analyze the indicators identified during P4P's planning phase which were not addressed during the first phase of implementation. The Working Group is further charged with identifying and suggesting which indicators should be addressed in the second phase of implementation based on:

1. Its assessment of current and future partnership opportunities for immediate impact and,
2. Its analysis of the data gathered during the planning phase and contemporary research.

Because the Prosperity Indicators Working Group has only met once, the group has only begun to make preliminary recommendations to P4P. To date, the group has identified a number of issues which appear to directly impinge upon its ability to carry out its general purpose. These issues and the preliminary suggestions are detailed below.

Preliminary Recommendations of the Prosperity Indicators Working Group

1. The Prosperity Indicators Working Group should look for opportunities to connect the research conducted in other working groups to the indicators to be addressed in the second phase of implementation.
 - Because it appears that each of the working group plans has a research within it, the Prosperity Indicators Working Group sees an opportunity to capitalize on the work already done and to explore the connections between that research and unaddressed prosperity indicators. This would allow the working groups to capitalize on the momentum already established and create a synergy among all of P4P's working groups.
2. The Prosperity Indicator Working Group should use the indicators that are identified for future P4P action to further existing partnerships between regional agencies, individuals and P4P or to create new partnerships.
 - As the general purpose of the Prosperity Indicators Working Group is to look for potential partnership opportunities, the Prosperity Indicators Working Group has identified a need to be "intentional" with respect to partnership formation and its selection of the indicators. The group recognizes that the selection of those indicators must be supported by the



available research in order to remain faithful to the grassroots orientation of P4P as an organization.

3. The Prosperity Indicators Working Group should examine the multi-dimensionality of the indicators and refine the indicators where necessary.

- At first glance the prosperity indicators appear to be straightforward theoretical constructs. However, each of the indicators needs to be “unpacked” to know what areas are being suggested to focus on in the future. Therefore, the group will work in conjunction with the Primary and Secondary Data Working Group to operationalize the prosperity indicators. This will facilitate easier measurement of P4P’s impact on regional prosperity and increase organizational effectiveness.

4. The Prosperity Indicators Working Group should develop protocols to enhance inter-working group communication relevant to current and future research on the prosperity indicators.

- In order for the Prosperity Indicators Working Group to fulfill its mission, it must develop a plan to become familiar with existing research (both within P4P and outside of it), determine a way to rank or prioritize the unaddressed indicators, and to clarify what the indicators are meant to capture. Therefore, the Working Group will work to establish these protocols in conjunction with the P4P research staff and potentially with the assistance of the Primary and Secondary Data Working Group.

Summary

Because the prosperity indicators identified by the Prosperity Indicators Working Group will in large measure affect the trajectory of P4P in the second phase, it is important for this working group to establish significant working ties with members of the other six working groups currently underway.