

Summary of Final Report

Organization Name: County of Humboldt Economic Development Division

Project Title: Industry Cluster Formation and Development

Amount of Grant Award: \$30,000

Date of Final Report: November 14, 2007

1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?

The goals were to:

- Facilitate industry cluster leadership groups.
- Implement industry cluster-defined projects
- Produce cross-cluster networking events
- Disseminate industry cluster work-plans and *Prosperity!*

Industry cluster leadership groups were achieved with those clusters that requested assistance (Fishing, Forest Products, Manufacturing, Information Technology). One industry cluster work plan (Specialty Agriculture) was completed. Completion of Education and Research was attempted several times. Unfortunately, the budget situation in both CR and HSU, and changes in leadership, made it impossible to gather people for a meaningful process. All the other goals were achieved.

2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?

- Researched industry cluster needs (Fishing price negotiation, timber policies, broadband).
- Board of Advisors for start-up and expanding businesses was launched with HSU and the Small Business Development Center in the lead.
- A business plan for local manufacturing cluster organization was researched. No sustainable model was discovered, while private sector efforts are filling the need.
- Produced and published dairy, agriculture, tourism-marketing positioning story.
- Facilitation of dialogue among ranchers and HSU researchers regarding the competing needs of Aleutian geese and cattle for seasonal grazed wetlands. Worked with HSU Center for Economic and Community Development who took the lead on this project.
- Developed and published State of the Industry Reports and Receptions to increase public understanding of local industry contributions, challenge and opportunities.
- Organized five Business Leader Luncheons and three State of the Industry receptions. All were well attended and the feedback was positive from businesses attending.
- Updated data on base industry clusters, so we can now track growth in the base industries from year to year.
- Analyzed work-plans and provided guidance for agencies, individuals and elected officials interested in aligning resources with the needs of local base industries, including: a list of

multi-cluster policy concerns; a list of multi-cluster infrastructure need; economic development work-plan.

- Legislative briefing with entrepreneurial businesses
- State of the Industry Reports and receptions.

3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?

- Ability to track growth rates and changes in the base economy year to year. All base industries grew wage in the last X years, and faster than the total economy.
- Stronger networks of businesses in industries. Business came up with solutions to some of their needs.
- Increased focus of economic development organizations on base industries.
- 5 Business Leader Luncheons produced; on going and valued by business, consistent attendance and positive feedback.
- Coordinated backhaul of goods set up by business owners during meeting of industry cluster.
- 9 State of the Industry Reports published; three receptions produced and well attended.

4. How will you continue work started by this project?

- Continue to track and report industry growth.
- State of the Industry reports published on the web and foundation for later updates.
- Business Leader Luncheons continued quarterly.
- Input from industries will contribute to updates of economic development strategy (CEDDS).