



2008 SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT El Paso, Texas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND:

Our community is experiencing unprecedented growth at a rate that will only accelerate in the foreseeable future. As local elected officials, business leaders and advocates for efficient government, we understand that continually increasing the tax burden on an overburdened base is an unworkable strategy.

To address growth and keep taxes as low as possible, elected officials have agreed that greater collaboration among all local taxing entities is necessary. From shared purchasing power of gasoline, technology and paper, to combined approaches for the use of buildings, we can work together to lower the costs of government.

The idea for shared services was presented to nearly all local taxing entities in the late spring/early summer of 2008, and governing bodies (elected or appointed officials) were asked to vote on a resolution of support. A committee comprised of individuals from the El Paso County, City of El Paso, the University of Texas at El Paso's Institute for Policy and Economic Development, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has worked on strategizing and facilitating the summit.

GOALS:

The summit will bring all local taxing entities together (see list below) and focus on three areas of potential collaboration, they include: *purchasing, information technology and facilities planning*. The goal is to have all appropriate government professionals together in three separate work sessions, lead by State experts, which will concentrate on developing short and long term strategies for shared services.

While there are innumerable ways we already collaborate and numerous other areas we could focus on, these are the three most common areas that were identified during informal surveys administered to local government leaders in El Paso. The end result of the summit will include a report outlining recommendations in these three key areas and will form a oversight committee comprised of individuals in each of the three work sessions. The committee will be charged with ensuring execution of stated goals.

TAXING ENTITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2008 SHARED SERVICES SUMMIT:

El Paso County
City of El Paso
City of Socorro
City of Horizon
City of Clint
Village of Vinton
Town of Anthony
Thomason Hospital
El Paso Community College
Canutillo Independent School District
El Paso Independent School District
Ysleta Independent School District
Socorro Independent School District
Tornillo Independent School District
Fabens Independent School District
Clint Independent School District
Anthony Independent School District
San Elizario Independent School District