



CCR-3

E-town hall meetings for a budget

Colorado Springs, Colorado (360,890), uses all available channels of communication to involve as many citizens as possible in its budgeting process. Two town hall meetings have been broadcast live on the city's Web site and government access television channel. The meetings were promoted through newspaper and radio ads. Residents who could not attend in person submitted questions by e-mail or fax, and the city manager read the questions aloud as they arrived at town hall. Responses were given during the meeting, and the meeting ended only after all questions had been addressed. During each meeting, almost 40 individuals submitted questions from outside the meeting room, and approximately 12 more later indicated that they had watched the meeting and gained a better understanding of how their tax dollars are spent. The only cost to the program was \$850 for newspaper ads. The city plans to broadcast more of its meetings through electronic and other media.

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