Mission
Founded in 2005, the California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) is a research center located at Humboldt State University which aims to build community, inform and influence policy and improve the health of rural people.

Partners/Audience
CCRP works and collaborates with a variety of entities including governments, hospitals, nonprofits, community members, and schools. CCRP’s work is shared with policymakers of all levels and key stakeholders.

Goals
CCRP addresses rural priorities and builds upon community strengths. Our exploration of the relationships between people and their environments is grounded in an ecological approach investigating the determinants of health and well-being. CCRP’s definition of health is broad; in order to be healthy, people must have adequate housing, transportation, access to medical care, and social services.

Services
CCRP provides a variety of services available for hire. Specific examples of some of these services (indicated by *) can be found on the reverse side of this flyer.

CCRP can be found on the web at: http://www.humboldt.edu/ccrp/
or follow CCRP on Twitter: http://twitter.com/CaRuralPolicy
Examples of Recent Work

**Rural Health Information Survey (2006):** The largest and most comprehensive survey ever conducted in rural Northern California. This written survey identified issues impacting health and access to health care for a wide cross-section of the population, including those without phones, living in remote locations and living in poverty. CCRP’s reports and briefs describe the health disparities identified and make policy recommendations.

**Rural Community Vital Signs (2010):** A core set of community health indicators to help guide and assess outcomes resulting from improvement efforts in the Redwood Coast Region. This process engaged a diverse group of community leaders in a year-long process to develop community health indicators and compile the data in a user-friendly report.

**Humboldt County Community Food Assessment (2010):** This community assessment is a profile of Humboldt County’s food system “from farm to table,” and is meant to be a tool for stakeholders -- farmers, consumers, nonprofits and policy makers alike. This report is a resource that provides hard data, identifies food system needs, and targets areas for change.

**Facilitation Services & Graphic Facilitation (ongoing):**
CCRP’s facilitation is a specifically tailored process to help an organization reach its desired outcomes. This can include stakeholder input for: defining the problem and describing its impacts, identifying and understanding facilitators of and barriers to behaviors related to the problem, prioritizing areas to target for program or policy development, interpretation of data findings, and use of evidence to inform program and policy development. Graphic facilitation offers a visual method used for facilitating and/or recording group interaction, presentation of information, and dialogue, that helps people to “see their thinking.” Among other purposes, it can be used for stakeholder input processes, strategic planning, and board retreats.

**Strategic Work Plan for Education Needs, Health Information Technology, Recruitment and Retention for the Diversified Healthcare Industry Cluster (2010):** The strategic work plan was developed for the Diversified Healthcare Industry (DHCI) Cluster for four counties of the Redwood Coast, Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity, in two phases. The first phase was conducted by Gainer & Associates under contract from the County of Humboldt, utilizing a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning and Technical Assistance Grant. The blueprint for a strategic plan that resulted from the first phase identified seven key goals and issues for developing a Diversified Healthcare Industry Cluster (DHIC), opportunities, assets and quick wins for the industry cluster, with recommendations for strategies and projects.

**Rural Ethnic Entrepreneurship: A Spatial Networks Approach to Community Development (2010):**
This document presents our work around ethnic entrepreneurship in rural Mendocino County, California. Mendocino was selected as a representative example for issues common to many rural communities attempting to shift their economies from traditional resource-based extraction to other forms of business by leveraging their local resources and human capital. More information about the processes and tools developed through and used in this effort, a website, www.peopleplaceandbiz.org serves as an excellent starting point to further explore the resulting “Biz Tool” providing an overview of key steps.

**Policy Conversations (ongoing):** Short reports that provide a portrait of current issues in the Redwood Coast region and assess possible policy solutions. Typically, the subject matter is derived from topics that surface at meetings with community members. Best practices specific to rural communities are examined and assessed. The final product is distributed to community leaders, presented to the legislature or local board of supervisors.