Fundamentals Course Homework

Session 1

In this session, we've talked about developing a plan or roadmap for the implementation of a BR&E program. Given the planning model shown on Slide 9 of the presentation in Section 3, describe your (or your EDO's) vision of the outcomes, outputs, and inputs required to create an atmosphere of success for the program. Note that we're not asking for specific numbers (i.e., budget line items, numbers of employees, etc.), but rather a narrative of what should be considered when addressing each component of the planning model.

Due by the beginning of the August 28, 2025 session.

Response 1

Outcomes

For Latimer County, the outcomes of a BR&E program are about building stability and momentum at the same time. We need to keep the businesses we already have strong while also creating the conditions that make people want to invest here. In Wilburton, that means fewer empty storefronts on Main Street, stronger connections between businesses and our schools, and making sure that local jobs support local families. At the same time, we're building on the natural beauty and tourism assets that already set southeast Oklahoma apart, while adding the stability that makes this a place people want to live and stay. Long term, the outcome I want is a community that feels confident in its future—a place where people see growth happening and know they're part of a region that is gaining real power and momentum.

Outputs

The outputs are the visible steps that show we're serious about this work: consistent business visits, honest reporting back on what we've learned, and follow-through with real action. That might look like bringing our key industries together to trade ideas, tackling shared challenges like broadband or childcare, or connecting individual businesses to the right partners so they can grow. Just as important, outputs include the tangible improvements—expanded water and sewer, site development, and stronger connectivity—so that when new opportunities come our way, we're ready to receive them. These kinds of outputs send a clear signal not only to our local businesses and neighbors, but also to potential investors, national companies, and federal funders that Latimer County is committed to progress, and that southeast Oklahoma is ready to compete on a larger stage.

Inputs

The inputs are both practical and relational. The Chamber will coordinate, but this work depends on partnerships with Eastern Oklahoma State College, Kiamichi Tech, KEDDO, the City of Wilburton, our utilities, and the Choctaw Nation, whose resources and regional data help us see the bigger picture. Data and surveys provide the backbone, but it's trust and consistency with local businesses that will keep the program moving. When people believe their voices matter, they're more likely to engage, and that energy is what makes change possible.

Vision

My vision is that this program becomes part of the way Wilburton shows pride in itself. Businesses know they'll be listened to and supported. Local leaders work side by side with educators and partners to align resources. And the community starts to see not just what we've held onto, but what we're building. If we keep listening, keep acting, and keep investing in both people and infrastructure, Latimer County can step into its future with confidence—rooted in who we are, strengthened by the beauty and assets around us, and ready to claim our place in the growing regional power of southeast Oklahoma.

Response 2

Business Retention and Expansion Program Goal Statement: The goal of Boone County's Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Program, led by REDI, is to support the long-term success of established local businesses by fostering growth, addressing employer challenges, and encouraging job creation. Through proactive engagement and strategic support, the program aims to deepen business connections within the community and ensure Columbia/Boone County remains a thriving environment for economic vitality and opportunity.

BRE Program Key Objectives and Benefits:

Ensure existing businesses' continued presence in the community.

Help businesses grow by connecting them with local and state resources, support, and opportunities for expansion.

Support a stable local workforce.

Collect data and insights about the local business landscape.

Foster partnerships between economic development organizations, local businesses, and government agencies.

Work closely with City and County government to contribute to a more favorable environment for overall business growth.

1. Support local manufacturers in filling job vacancies – partner with Columbia Job Center (Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development) to host quarterly manufacturing job fair at the local library with at least five manufacturers being represented at each event.

2. Establish industry specific roundtable group to provide resources and support - create a forum for human resources staff working in specific industry sectors (beginning with manufacturing) to share challenges, resources, and best practices in an environment of support and camaraderie. In addition to sharing ideas and experiences, attendees can learn about resources at the local and state level and collaborate on efforts to market the manufacturing industry within our community, such as activities to celebrate National Manufacturing Day/Month. On average four manufacturers are represented at every quarterly roundtable event.

3. Empower rural areas of Boone County (Sturgeon, Hallsville, Centralia) to engage community members to identify one key goal impacting their economic development and create a plan to meet that goal – meet with community leaders, introduce resources such as Missouri Main Street and MU Extension's Strategic Doing process, provide funds as needed to support efforts, stay engaged with community leaders and provide support as requested.

Response 3

Vision for Outcomes, Outputs, and Inputs in the Hutto BizThrive BR&E Program

Inputs
The inputs needed for the program is dedicated personnel (myself), community partnerships, and a responsive EDC board. Key stakeholders (i.e. staff, workforce partners, educational institutions, etc.) are a big part of our mission of the program. If we do know have a community behind us, it makes it hard to communicate out our program when it's only me staff wise. Collaborating with other entities helps me broaden my reach to the business community.

Outputs
Based on the success of the inputs, I can anticipate a few outputs. A few being an increase number or businesses engaging with the program, growing participation in my quarterly events, and strengthening the connection of when a business is needing help, they would reach out to me as a resource. These are just a few ways that I would be able to measure our efforts and see how the BR&E program can be impactful to the Hutto Business community.

Outcomes
The overall desire with an outcome of the program comes in two parts of success, short- term and long-term. In the short-term, I want businesses to feel supported, informed, and connected. In the long-term, I hope that through the relationships I have built with the business community, it will allow me to partner on workforce expansion projects, increase the investment from not only the business community but the residents when they see we are investing back into the community, and a healthy resilient business climate. Ultimately, I would love to see our business community thrive and prosper.

Response 4

Outcomes:
York County is recognized as a municipality that supports the local community and promotes sustainable economic development in the region. To improve the County's business environment by fostering a sense of collaboration with the local business community to provide the best possible support. To ensure the local business community knows they can rely on the York County Economic Development team to provide the resources they need to succeed and will effectively address pertinent issues and meet the needs of local businesses.

Outputs:

- Strategic outreach to local businesses, with tailored visits to businesses in different sectors (small businesses, restaurants, health care, manufacturing, tourism).
- To gain an accurate understanding of the pressing needs of local businesses through a comprehensive survey with a high participation rate.
- Connect regional business leaders and stakeholders to the people and resources that can provide the needed support.
- Provide training, seminars, conferences, and networking opportunities for local businesses, the community, and county staff.
- Continually review and update these action plans so they remain relevant.

Inputs:

- Staffing & Training: ensure that the York County Economic Development staff are knowledgeable and service-oriented for the community. Provide Economic Development staff with useful information, training, and development opportunities so they feel equipped to respond to the needs of the Business Environment
- Time: allow the Economic Development staff time to build meaningful relationships with the local business community.
- Open-mindedness & Flexibility: Remain open to listening and understanding the needs of businesses, even if it conflicts with previously held understandings. Meet the local environment where it is.

Response 5

Here in Cleveland, Texas we have a vision for the future that we are working hard to achieve. As we continually make strides towards a better quality of life for our residents, it is important to have specifically outlined outcomes, outputs, and inputs that will realistically help us obtain these goals.

The outcomes we work towards every day are accumulated of many different economic sectors, combining harmoniously to increase satisfaction among our residents and businesses. Workforce development is a central focus, as it benefits both people and businesses, creating more opportunities and higher wages for residents while providing employers with a skilled labor pool. Another key outcome we are eager to see is the revitalization of our downtown area, transforming it into an attractive destination for both residents and visitors. Overall, our BRE Program is designed to strengthen communication with business owners so we can not only support them directly but also strategically guide the city's growth.

The outputs of our BRE Program will incorporate all of the components that make up any successful program. Regular visits, surveys, strategic actions addressing concerns, and follow-ups regarding what was discussed are all important components that we deem necessary to have this program be effective. A priority will be identifying the root causes of challenges businesses face and connecting them with the

appropriate tools and resources. To ensure accountability and transparency, we will also track progress through CRM software, which will allow us to show measurable results.

There are some inputs that are essential to ensuring this program is effective and actually helpful. Since we plan to follow a more traditional approach, human capital will be highly important. Volunteer participation and strong buy-in from city leadership will be critical. Leadership support is especially valuable because it can shape the perspective while influencing the overall morale and credibility of the program, which is crucial when relying on volunteer-driven efforts.

With the right inputs and outputs in place, we are confident that we can achieve the outcomes needed to create lasting success for Cleveland's businesses and community.

Response 6

Response 7

Response 8