

Nome CEDS Community Forum, December 6, 2016

Facilitated by Nolan & Ethan in conjunction with the Economic Development Administration's two day forum in Nome:

Attendees:

Goal 1: Business Retention and Development

Access to basic business services needed:

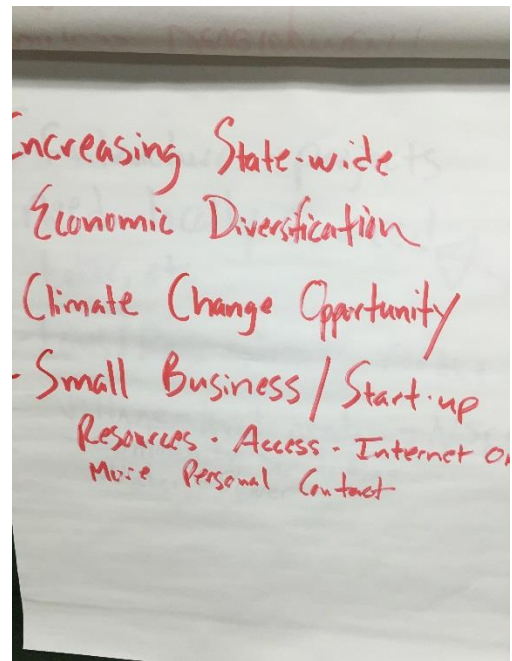
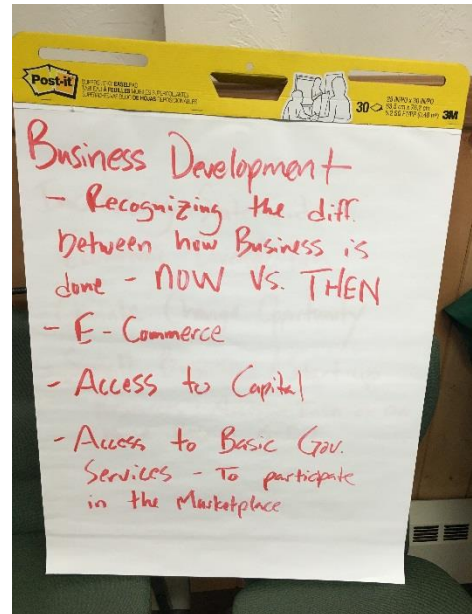
- E-commerce challenges because of limited internet bandwidth.
- Access to capital is a challenge
- Basic government services – business licensing, drivers licensing (DMV) etc.
- There is a need to recognize and embrace the new ways that business is currently done – i.e. need more internet connectivity.

Finance:

- Access to capital for small businesses and start ups is a challenge.
- Banking services are largely online – a challenge for the low broadband community.

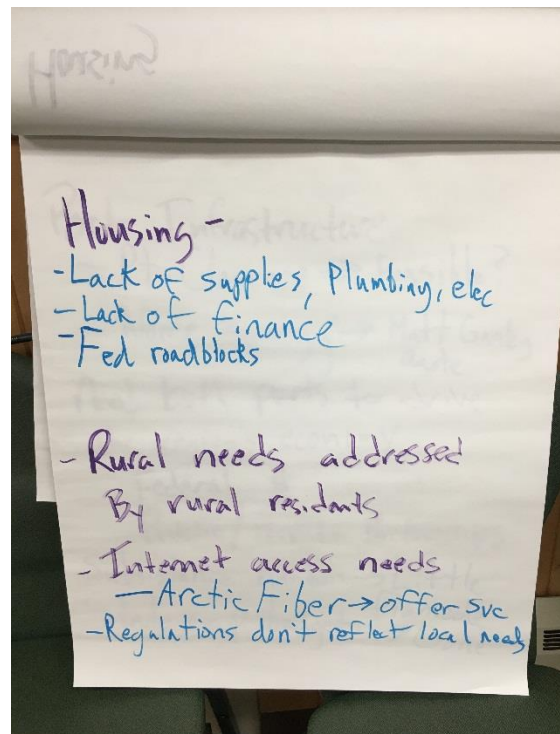
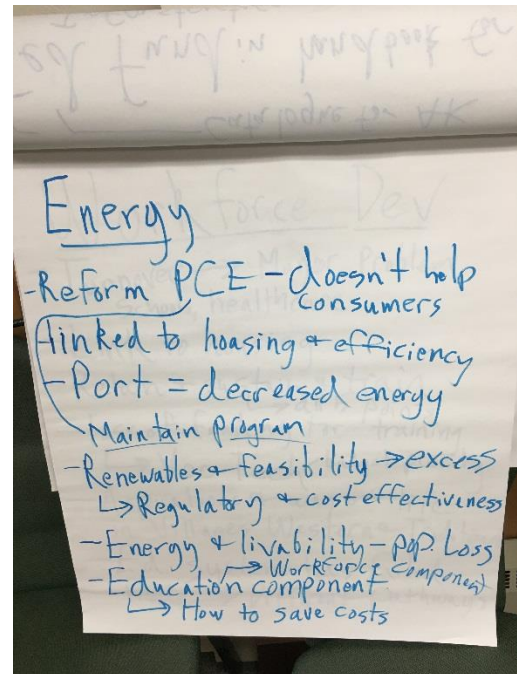
Opportunities:

- Climate change is an opportunity for Nome
- Increasing state-wide economic diversification will be helpful for Nome
- Small Business and start ups are an opportunity for Nome
- E-commerce for Alaska Native arts



Goal 2/3: Infrastructure and energy

- Major need for broadband to improve internet.
 - Arctic fiber is an opportunity but likely will be expensive
 - Federal regulations don't reflect local needs
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- Need to reform Power Cost Equalization (PCE) – maintain the program but with changes, as it is currently doesn't help consumers.
- Renewables vs feasibility – Regulatory and cost effectiveness
- Cost of energy causes population loss
- Energy affects education / workforce development costs.
- Strong desire to train and utilize locally sourced labor for all projects – both in Nome and throughout regional villages.
- Housing Challenges
 - Shortage of housing
 - High cost of buildings – a home is worth less than it costs to build (shipping costs)
 - Lack of supplies
 - Lack of traditional finance
 - Federal roadblocks
- Port Infrastructure:
 - Port Clarence – potential opportunity, but is it feasible?
 - Not in competition with port of Nome – there is a synergy between the Nome Port and Port Clarence
 - Need both ports to drive the region's economy
 - Financing for the port – Public private partnership / federal dollars – state doesn't have the money to participate
- Potential idea: Federal funding handbook for infrastructure
 - There are too many agencies to keep track of where to locate resources.



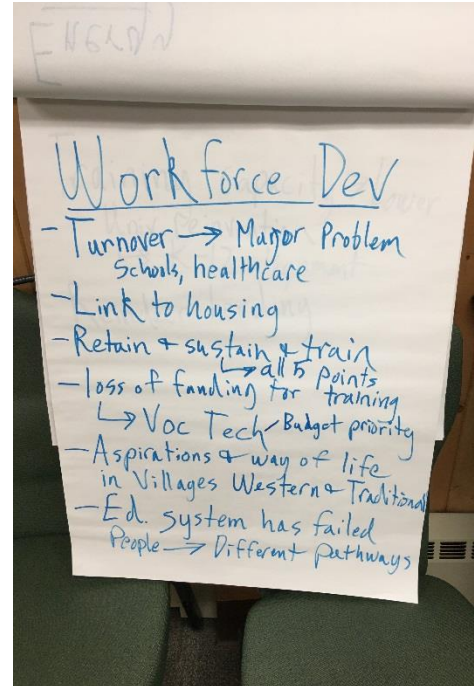
Village specific needs:

- Community facilities needed

- Water and sewer challenges

Goal 4: Workforce

- Population and workforce turnover
 - Major problem with schools & healthcare needs
 - Linked to housing challenges
 - Need to retain, sustain and train
 - Voc Tec should be a budget priority
- Aspirations and way of life in villages are a challenge for the workforce needs to balance (traditional versus western ways)
- Education system has failed rural people – not enough different pathways provided
 - Training capacity is lower
 - Need university reinvention and k-12 alignment with that
- Reindeer herding – traditional jobs need training too.



Goal 5: Community Development

Need for affordable housing
Water, sewer, sanitation systems

Goal Tally:

Business Retention and Development: 2

Infrastructure: 10

Energy: 10

Workforce Development: 13

Community Development: 4

