

QUESTIONS FOR BR&E VISITATION

RESEARCH REPORT WRITERS

To find a researcher, check first with your BR&E Certified Coordinator/Professional or state/provincial program sponsor. If you do not have these resource people, check with your state/provincial department of economic development, utility companies, or universities to see if anyone is currently doing reports. At the university, the persons most likely to be willing and able to do these will be in the following departments: applied economics, agricultural economics, city and regional planning, public administration, community economic development, or rural sociology.

Regardless of whom you find to do the research, you should ask a series of questions. The quality of reports and the fees vary widely. The following questions will help you evaluate what you would get from each source:

What do we get in the report?

- What information is included in the report?
- Are the survey results presented in a strategic planning framework or just summarized?
- Are suggested action areas presented to the local Task Force? If so, who develops these?

Do You Provide Assistance in Developing A Local Consensus?

- After the research report is written, does the researcher come to our community to present it?
- Are the survey results presented to allow Task Force discussion?
- Does the local Task Force make all the final decisions on the priorities for future projects?

Do we get a popular summary and other outputs?

- Is a summary written by the researcher after our Task Force sets its priorities?
- Do you provide presentation-quality PowerPoints of the results?
- Do you provide a news release with the final report and summary?

Can you give us references?

- Can you give us a sample of an earlier BR&E Report or another type of analysis of a local economy that you have written?
- Are you willing to provide the names and phone numbers of one to two community leaders with whom you have worked?