

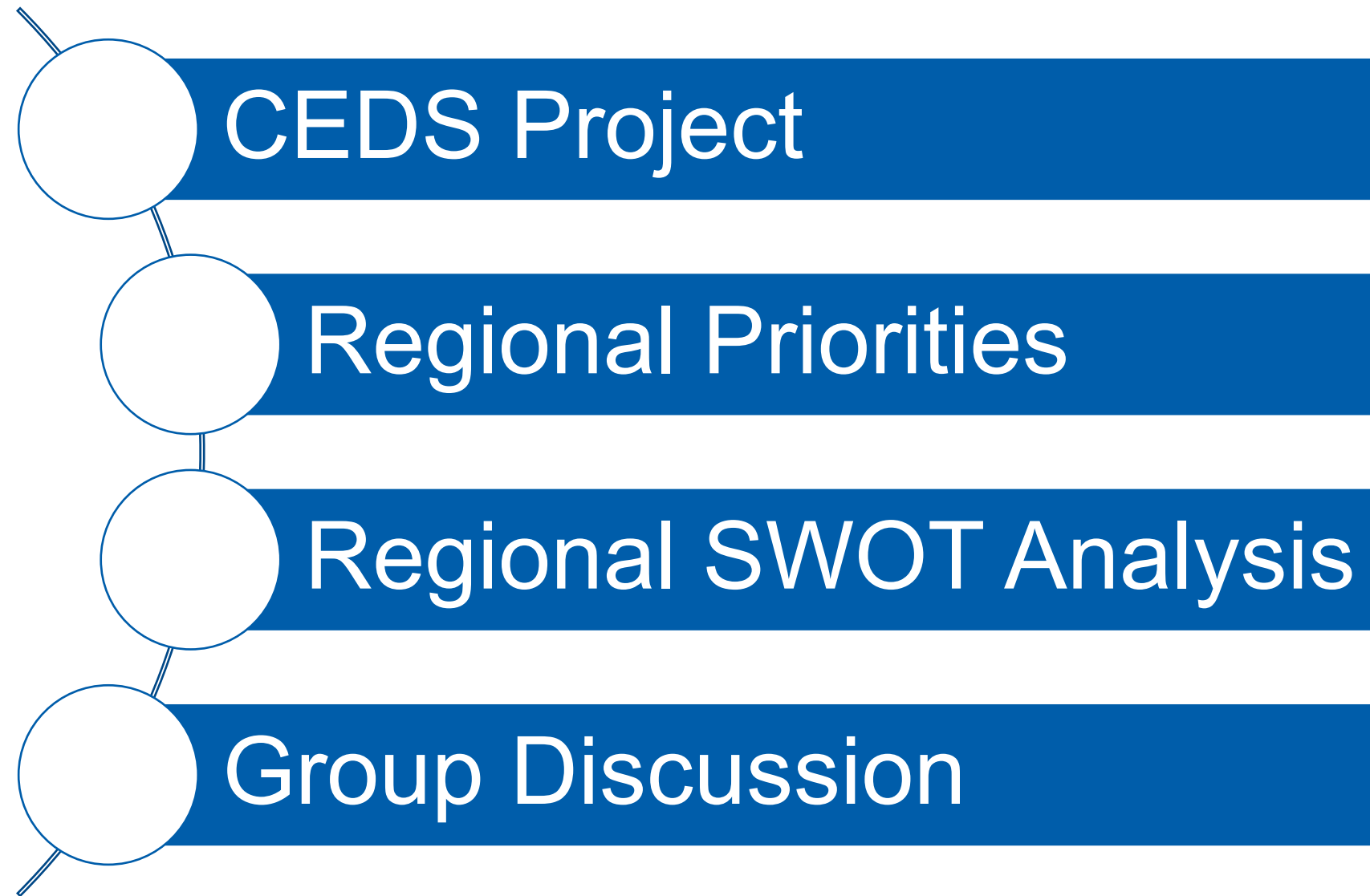
2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



Baris Gumus-Dawes

May 15, 2025

Overview



What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?



Document to inform the 7-county region's economic development efforts



Required to be eligible for federal grants

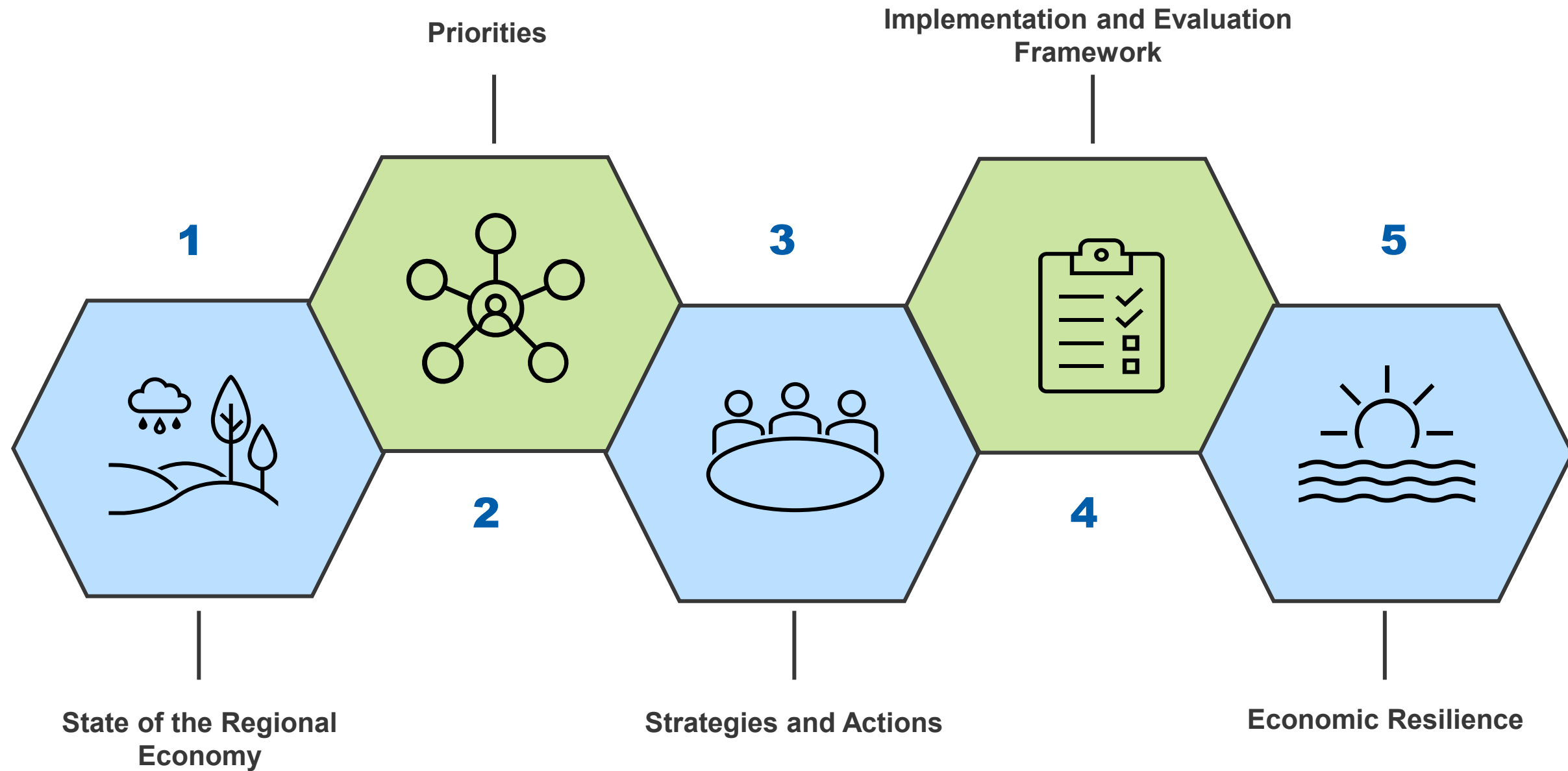


Collective vision for the region's economic future



A broad scan of regional economic development initiatives

2025 CEDS Structure



CEDS Committee



SET UP A REGIONAL TABLE FOR
A WIDE RANGE OF
STAKEHOLDERS



INFORM THE FUTURE
DIRECTION OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PROVIDE A VENUE FOR
COLLABORATIVE ALIGNMENT
OF STRATEGIES

Strategic Priorities

Regional Brand
& Image

Racial Inclusion

Workforce &
Skills

Job Growth

Talent Migration
& Retention

Startups &
Innovation

New Climate
Economy

Transportation
& Mobility

Affordability

The strategic priorities are adapted from the Greater MSP Partnership, which developed these themes over the past decade. Greater MSP continues to implement and refine these regional strategies today.

Mentimeter Survey QR Code



Are these priorities still important? How important are they?

Sliding Scale Priorities Mentimeter Slide

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Sliding Scale Priorities Mentimeter Slide

Have the priorities changed? If so, how?

Open ended Mentimeter slide.

Analyzing the Economic Landscape



Strengths

- High quality of life
- Strong economic fundamentals
- Diverse economic base and strong leading industries
- Quality infrastructure

Weaknesses

- Persistent racial disparities in economic outcomes
- Workforce problems
- Weak venture capital inflow
- Distressed downtowns

Opportunities

- Clean economy innovations in sectors of strength
- Growing demand for medical technologies and healthcare solutions
- Entrepreneurship and business development opportunities among communities of color
- Digital technology prospects

Threats

- Climate change and related infrastructure stress
- Political polarization affecting policy
- Global economic volatility
- Workforce disruptions driven by AI, automation, and other technologies

Group Discussion



Discussion Questions

1. What do you see as the regional economy's key strengths and opportunities? What are some strategic initiatives that are happening?
2. What do you see as the key weaknesses and vulnerabilities? What is being done and can be done to address them?

Next Steps

Session 2: **June 24, 2025**, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (via Zoom)

Session 3: **July 17, 2025**, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (via Zoom)

Session 4: **August 21, 2025**, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (via Zoom)

Session 5: **September 19, 2025**, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (In-Person)

Next Steps

Questions or Comments: Contact Eric King

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