# Sample Business Plan Framework 5: A program that establishes itself as a government entity, then operates using a fee-based structure



Mission: Create a sustainable, local home energy efficiency market in the greater city "X" region Vision: Recognized as key to building and connecting demand and market capacity, while operating as a reliable and reputable government entity Goal: Operate in post-grant period by generating enough fee-based revenues to cover costs

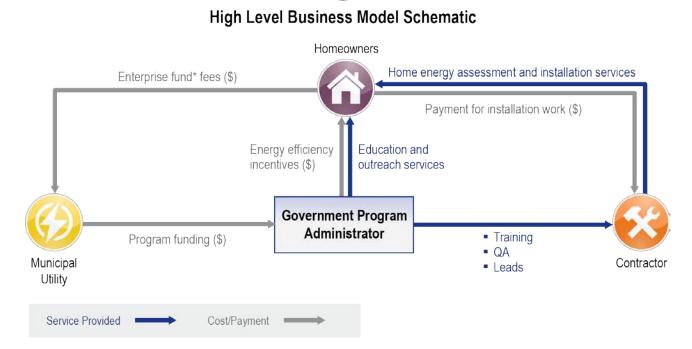
Governance	Financial Structure	Assets & Diffrastructure	Service Offering	Customer	Partners
<ul> <li>Define internal responsibilities:</li> <li>Governmental organization supported by a fee-based revenue system</li> <li>Define external restrictions (e.g., regulations, laws, etc.)</li> <li>Regulations for enterprise fund activities vary by state</li> <li>As a Home Rule state, do not require express permission to operate an enterprise fund</li> <li>Local government must approve and amend the proposed fund and fee structure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Identify sources/uses of funds: Sources:</li> <li>Grant funding is used initially</li> <li>Post-grant period, the fund generates fee-based revenues with no additional grants</li> <li>Uses:</li> <li>Provide subsidized services for homeowners and contractors (no charge)</li> <li>Track financial performance:</li> <li>Track fee-based revenues and operating expenses for budgetary purposes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Identify assets (e.g., software, brand, etc.) Brand:</li> <li>Investment in brand image centered around:</li> <li>Job creation (to recruit contractors)</li> <li>Energy efficiency expertise (to credibly convey benefits of energy efficiency to homeowners)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>List services offered:</li> <li>For Homeowners: <ul> <li>Subsidized energy assessments and installation services</li> <li>Education and outreach services</li> </ul> </li> <li>For Contractors: <ul> <li>Tech, sales, and bus. development trainings</li> <li>Leads to new work</li> </ul> </li> <li>Articulate value of service offering: <ul> <li>Provide homeowners with subsidized services</li> <li>Provide contractors with training, new potential sources of revenue, and quality assurance (QA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Identify target customers:</li> <li>Homes &gt;1,500 sq. ft.</li> <li>Household income of &gt;\$60,000</li> <li>Describe outreach strategy:</li> <li>Neighborhood sweeps: demand creation among homeowners in particular neighborhoods</li> <li>Education sessions</li> <li>Mass marketing through print, radio, and social media</li> <li>Outreach to contractors through Efficiency First chapter</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Identify current/future partnering opportunities:</li> <li>Partners during grant period include:</li> <li>Remodelers and HVAC contractors</li> <li>Training agencies</li> <li>Future potential partners include:</li> <li>Realtors</li> <li>Describe how program aligns with potential partner interests:</li> <li>Program trains enough contractors to sustain market in post-grant period</li> <li>Contractors get free training and new business</li> <li>Training programs get steady source of funding</li> </ul>
Costs			Revenue		
materials for QA)	s sold (e.g., marketing/lead ge ties, administrative costs, etc.) nvestment		<ul> <li>List and describe revenue:</li> <li>Federal grants (initial funding)</li> <li>Enterprise fund fees (post-grant period)</li> </ul>		

Sample 5 Schematic: A program that establishes itself as a government entity, then operates using a fee-based structure



### Defining a program's mission, vision, and goals is critical to determining what an organization's basic characteristics are, and by extension, its schematic

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\*An enterprise fund provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting

In considering a transition model, ensuring the entity's legality and legitimacy are the critical business plan elements to focus on



#### Governance: Detailed Steps

#### How to identify potential stakeholders for partnership:

- 1. Determine the legal eligibility of the program at the state level
- 2. Seek approval of the entity's legal formation at the local level
- 3. Design a self-sustaining and legally justifiable fee-based business model, and obtain final approval at the local level

**Goal:** Operate in post-grant period by generating enough fee-based revenues to cover costs

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## Determine eligibility at state level

1

- Research whether or not a similar program already exists
- Determine what types of fee activities are allowable
- Find out if the state is a Home Rule state or a Dillon's Rule state (Dillon's Rule states require express permission for enterprise funding)

### Seek approval from local government

2

- Establish the structure of the new enterprise fund or amend the structure of an existing fund
- Submit required documentation for review and approval at the local level

### Design fee structure and obtain final approval

- Ensure that the proposed fee-generating activity is legally justifiable at the state and local levels
- Determine if the proposed revenue stream meets the local definition of "fee-driven"
- Make certain the proposed fee directly results in the intended market impacts

Program Goal: Self-Sustaining Reputable Entity