



BUREAU OF THE  
**Fiscal Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

# Federal Spending Transparency

## USAspending.gov and DATA Act

Maryland Governor's Grants Training  
Conference 2014  
November 13, 2014

# Agenda

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- USAspending.gov Short-Term Improvements
- DATA Act Summary and Treasury Key Roles
- Treasury Data Transparency Vision, Goals, and Approach
- Benefits and Next Steps

# USAspending Improvements

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## Background

- Single, searchable website on federal awards launched in 2007 to comply with Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act 2006
- Treasury assumed program responsibility as of February 2014

## Short-Term Goal

Treasury is working to make short-term improvements to the ease of use of USAspending.gov by Spring 2015. Improvements include:

- Enhanced user experience
- Increased access to the data
- Simple data validations
- Expanded search capabilities

## Long-Term Goal

- Implement the DATA Act

# DATA Act

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## Purpose

- Establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of Federal spending information

## Key Treasury Roles

- Co-establish with OMB government-wide financial data standards
- Lead the Government-wide implementation of the DATA Act
- Publish additional expenditures information on USAspending.gov no later than three years after enactment
- Create a data analysis center (or expand an existing service) to support the prevention and reduction of improper payments by Federal agencies and improve efficiency and transparency in the federal government

# Vision

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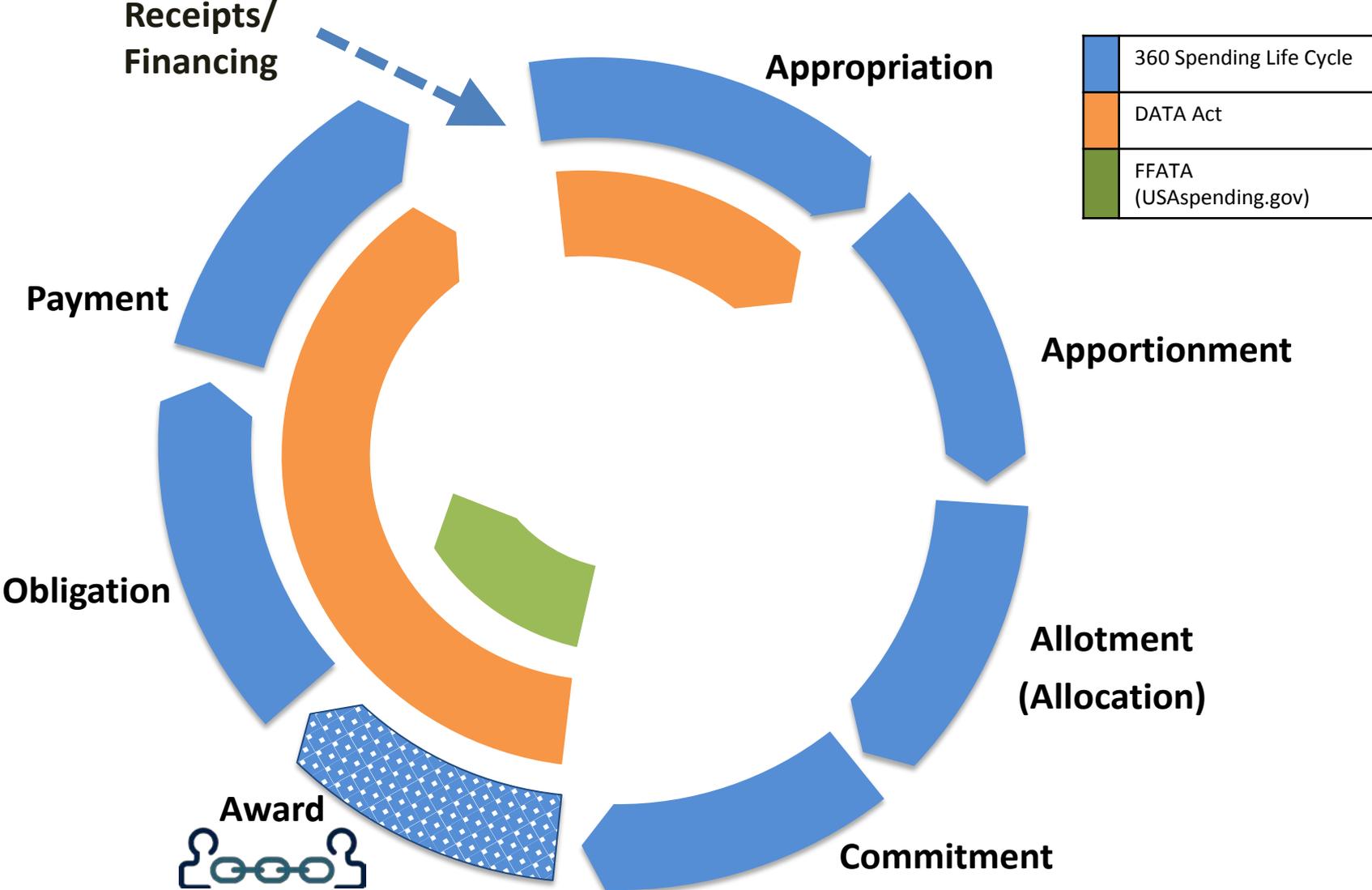
Provide reliable, timely, secure, and consumable financial management data for the purpose of promoting transparency, facilitating better decision making, and improving operational efficiency.

***Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Government***

## GOALS

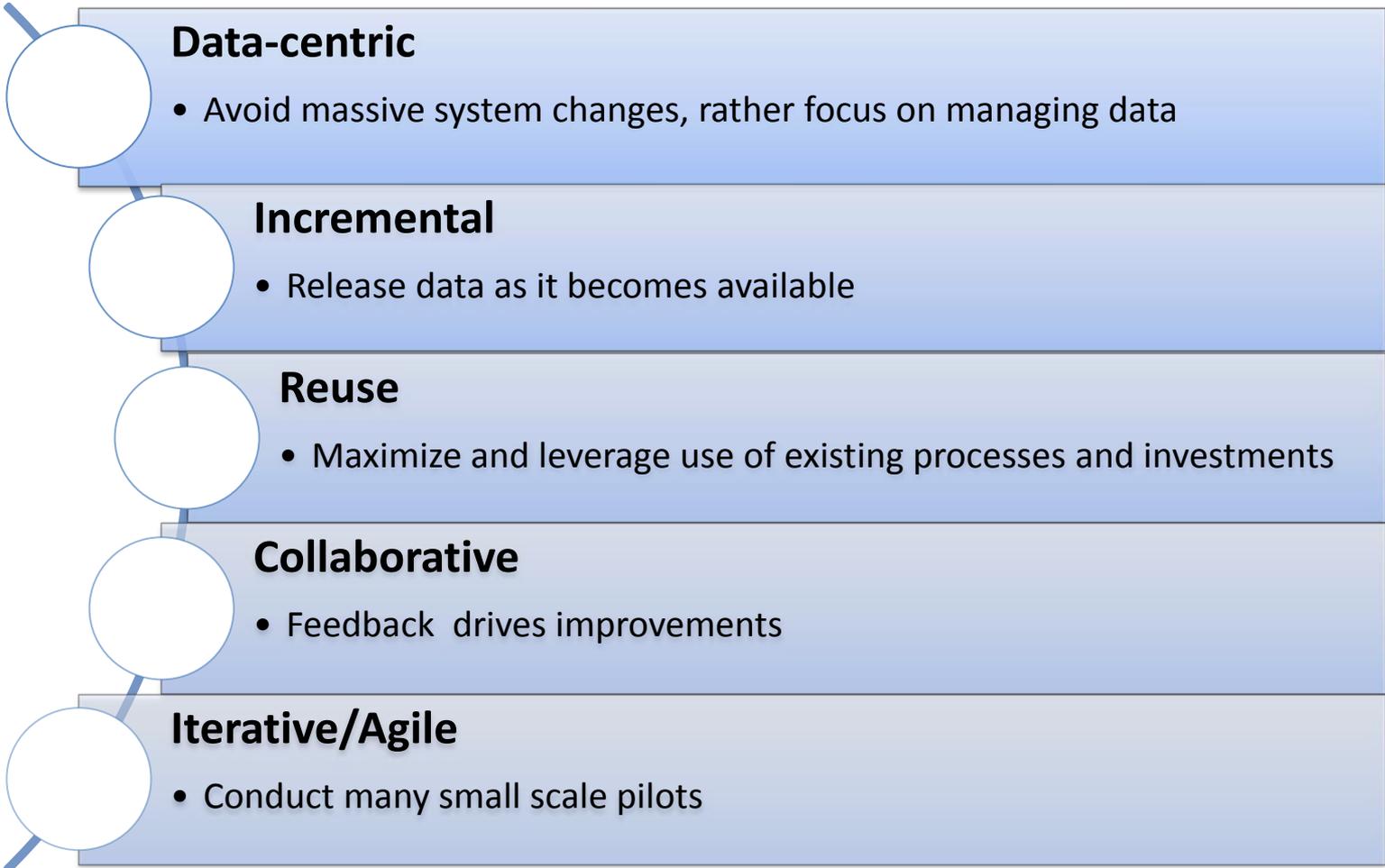
- ❑ Capture and make available financial management data to enable the data consumers to **follow the complete life cycle of Federal spending** -- from appropriations to the disbursements of grants, contracts, and administrative spending
- ❑ **Standardized information exchanges** – definitions and format – to enable timely access to discoverable and reusable detail transaction level data

# DATA Act in Context of Spending Life Cycle



# DATA Act Implementation Approach

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## Data-centric

- Avoid massive system changes, rather focus on managing data

## Incremental

- Release data as it becomes available

## Reuse

- Maximize and leverage use of existing processes and investments

## Collaborative

- Feedback drives improvements

## Iterative/Agile

- Conduct many small scale pilots

# Creating Value through Better Access to Data

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## **Provide Transparency**

Reduce fraud and mitigate risk (e.g., disaster relief spending)

## **Greater insights**

Expose variation and use benchmarks/best practices to assess best approach (e.g., compare grant use and depletion across recipients)

## **Increase Collaboration**

Provide greater opportunities for collaboration information and sharing

## **Customize services/actions**

Segment populations to customize actions (e.g., identify and proactively address risk and fraud)

## **Enable data driven decisions**

Faster, more accurate, less biased decisions (e.g., performance based decision making)

## **Enable Innovation**

Create or enhance products and services, enable economic growth (e.g., national weather service, geospatial data)

# What is Ahead of Us?

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- Implement USAspending short-term improvements
- Consult with public and private stakeholders in establishing the data standards
- Standardize the data element definitions
- Develop a blueprint of the data elements based on the standard definitions
- Continue pilot efforts on data exchange standards and publication options, and on reducing reporting burden