



# The Data Act: What It Is and What It Means

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## Data Transparency Town Hall

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# Agenda



- DATA Act Summary
- Requirements and Approach
- Treasury/OMB Data Transparency Vision
- Benefits and Challenges
- Next Steps



# Federal Financial Transparency History



- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)
- Recovery Act
- Government Accountability and Transparency Board (GATB)
- Data Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act)



# DATA Act Summary

- Purpose: to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of Federal spending information.
- Passed Congress on April 28. Signed into law on May 9, 2014 (P.L. 113-101).
- Amends the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) to require full disclosure of Federal agency expenditures.
- Requires the development of Government-wide data standards, takes steps to simplify financial reporting, and improves the quality of the spending data.

# Governance and Implementation Structure

Executive Steering Committee – OMB and Treasury

Inter-Agency Advisory Committee – OMB, Treasury, OSTP, GSA and  
Representatives from: CFOC, BOAC, ACE, COFAR, CAOC, CIOC, PIC

## Lead

**Treasury**  
(Data Transparency  
PMO)

**OMB**

## Design and Implement

**OMB**  
Data Definition Standards

**Treasury**  
Blueprint/roadmap  
between data elements

**Treasury**  
Data Exchange Standards

**OMB**  
Pilot to Reduce Admin  
Burden

**Treasury**  
Data Analytics

## Support

**Senior  
Accountable  
Officials from  
each of the 24  
CFO Act agencies**

## Consult

**Industry**

**Non-Federal  
stakeholders**

**Federal Lines of  
Business**



# ***DATA Act Implementation Approach***



## **Data-centric**

- Avoid massive system changes, 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



# Data Definition Standards



## Importance

- Other elements of DATA Act are dependent on data standards
- Affects all stakeholders and downstream recipients of Federal funds

## Goals

- ❑ **Standardize data definitions** – collaborate with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders to define common data elements across communities
- ❑ **Look at industry standards** – during implementation, carefully examine common practices and uses to maximize positive impact
- ❑ **Consider implications** – use collaboration tools and outreach processes to understand and consider potential implications for stakeholders in their future reporting and compliance based on standards

## Accomplishments-to-date

- ✓ Compiled list of FFATA and DATA Act elements which must be defined according to DATA Act
- ✓ Established Interagency Advisory Committee (IAC) to coordinate cross-community collaboration within Federal government



# Background – Vision: 360 Spending Life Cycle

## Vision

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

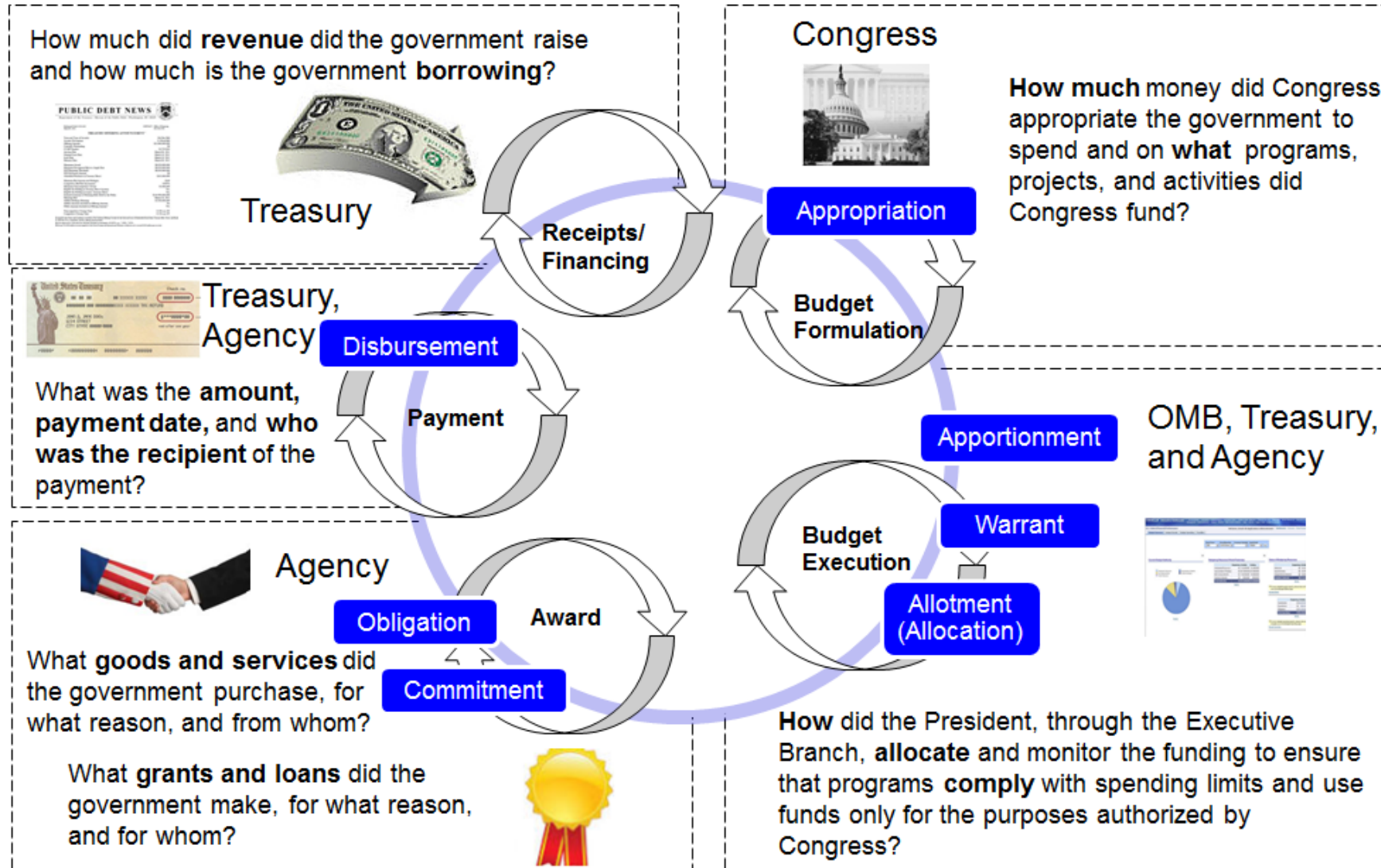
## Accomplishments-to-date

- ✓ Assumed program responsibility over USAspending.gov
- ✓ Successfully piloted “Intelligent Data” prototype
- ✓ Conducted “Award ID linkage” feasibility study



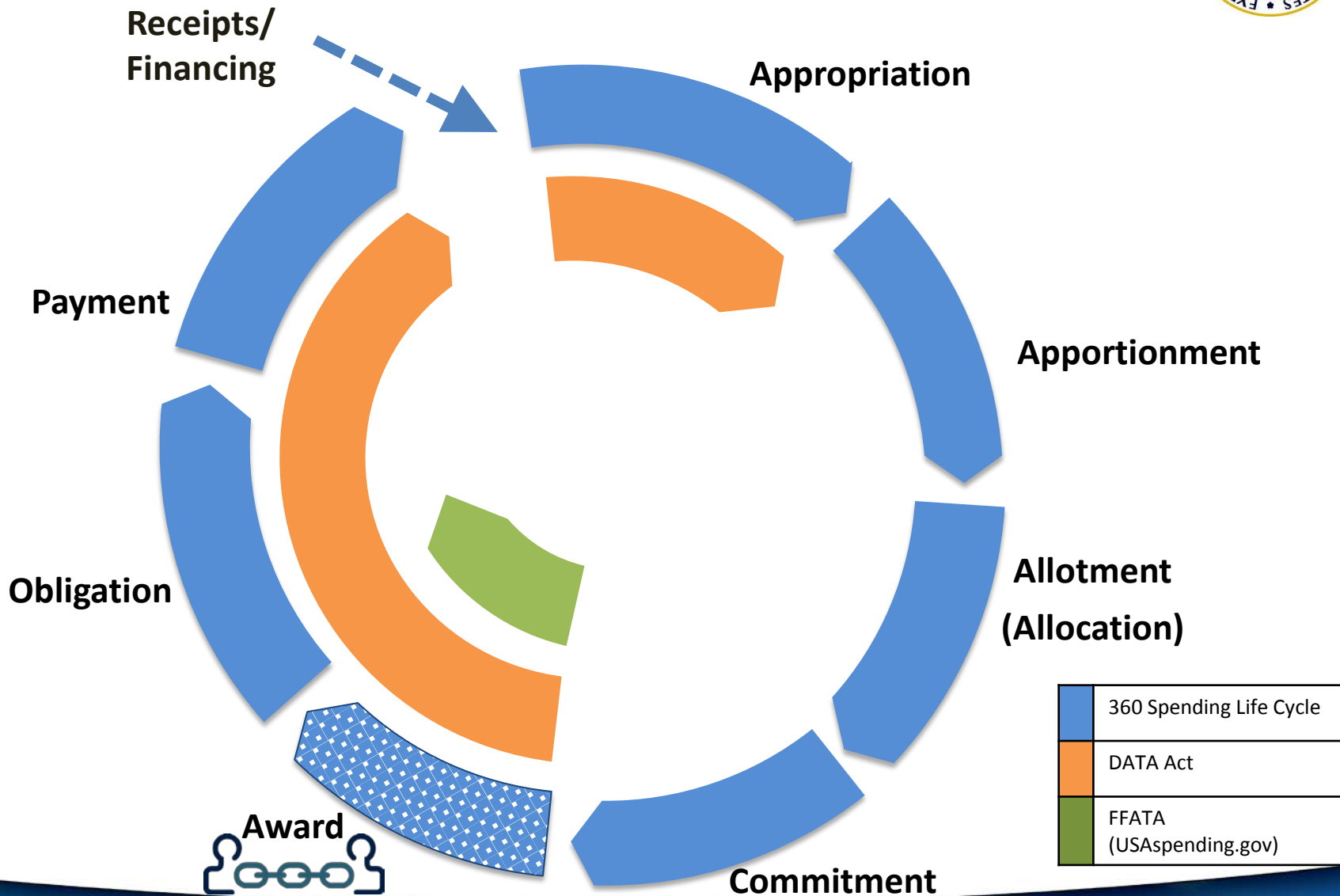


# 360° Spending Transparency





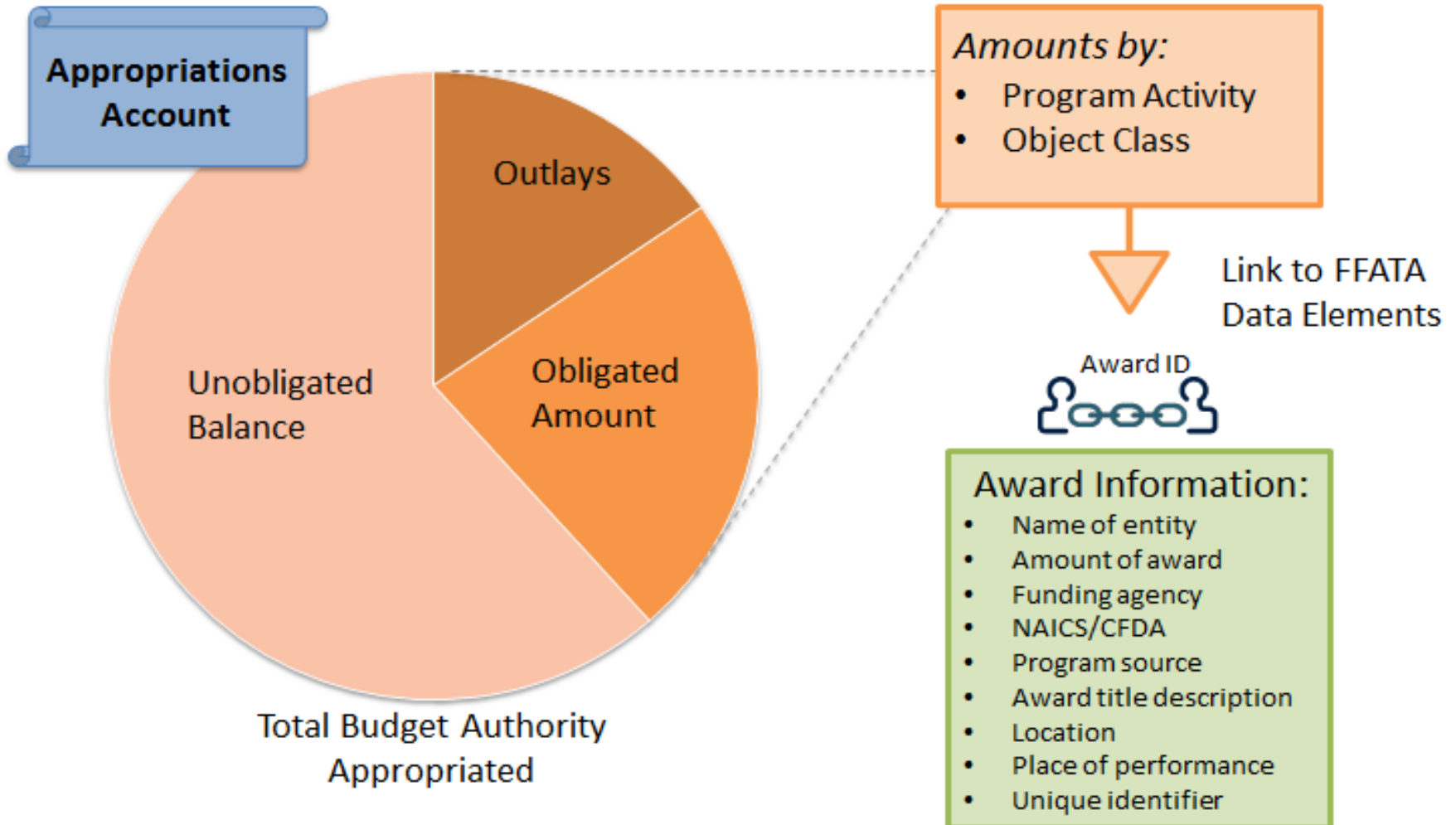
# DATA Act in Context of Spending Life Cycle





# DATA Act Requirements

FFATA Sec. 3 "Full disclosure of federal funds"





# Data Sources



## Treasury Data

- Appropriations account
- Budgetary resources
- Amount obligated
- Unobligated balance
- Outlays

Standard Data Exchange



Summary level

## Agency Financial Data

- Object class
- Program activity

Award ID



Operational & Reporting

Transactional level

## Agency Award Data

- Recipient
- Location

Financial Mgmt. & Budgeting

Management system data  
(i.e., procurement, grant systems)



# Challenges

- Requires strong leadership from Treasury and OMB to lead transformational changes and innovative thinking
- Short implementation timeline – requires fast, early action and reporting on results
- Limited resources – no additional funding for implementation
- Requires collaboration and active participation across federal communities, including procurement, grants, financial management, budget
- Diverse and broad set of stakeholders including, Congress, state & local governments, private industry, general public, transparency advocacy groups, and international community



# What is Ahead of Us?

- Finalize the plan to implement the DATA Act
- 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