



The Data Act: What It Is and What It Means

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Data Transparency Town Hall

September 26, 2014



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

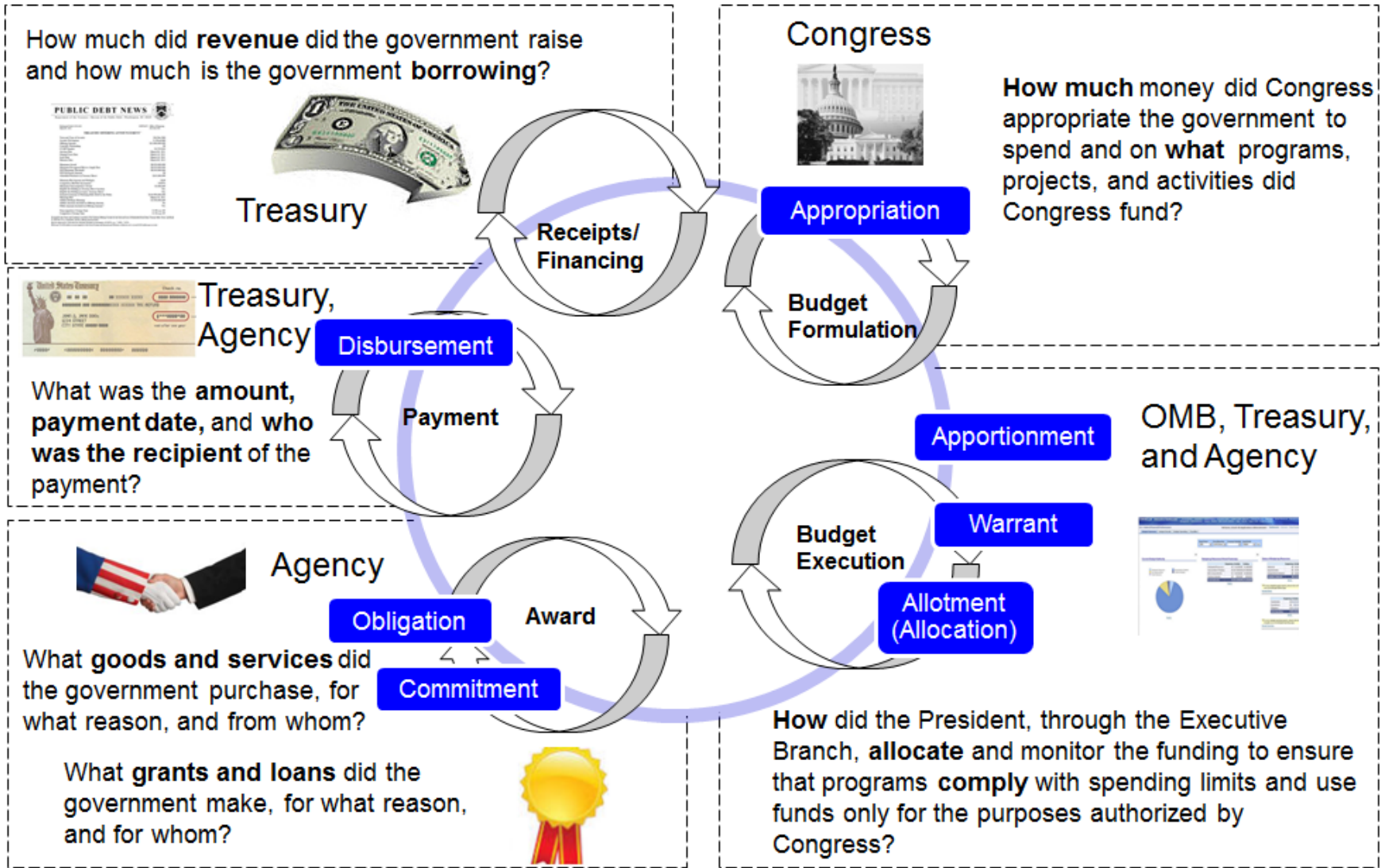
- Capture and make available financial management data to enable the data consumers to **follow the complete life cycle of Federal spending** -- from appropriations to the disbursements of grants, contracts, and administrative spending
- Standardized information exchanges** – definitions and format –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

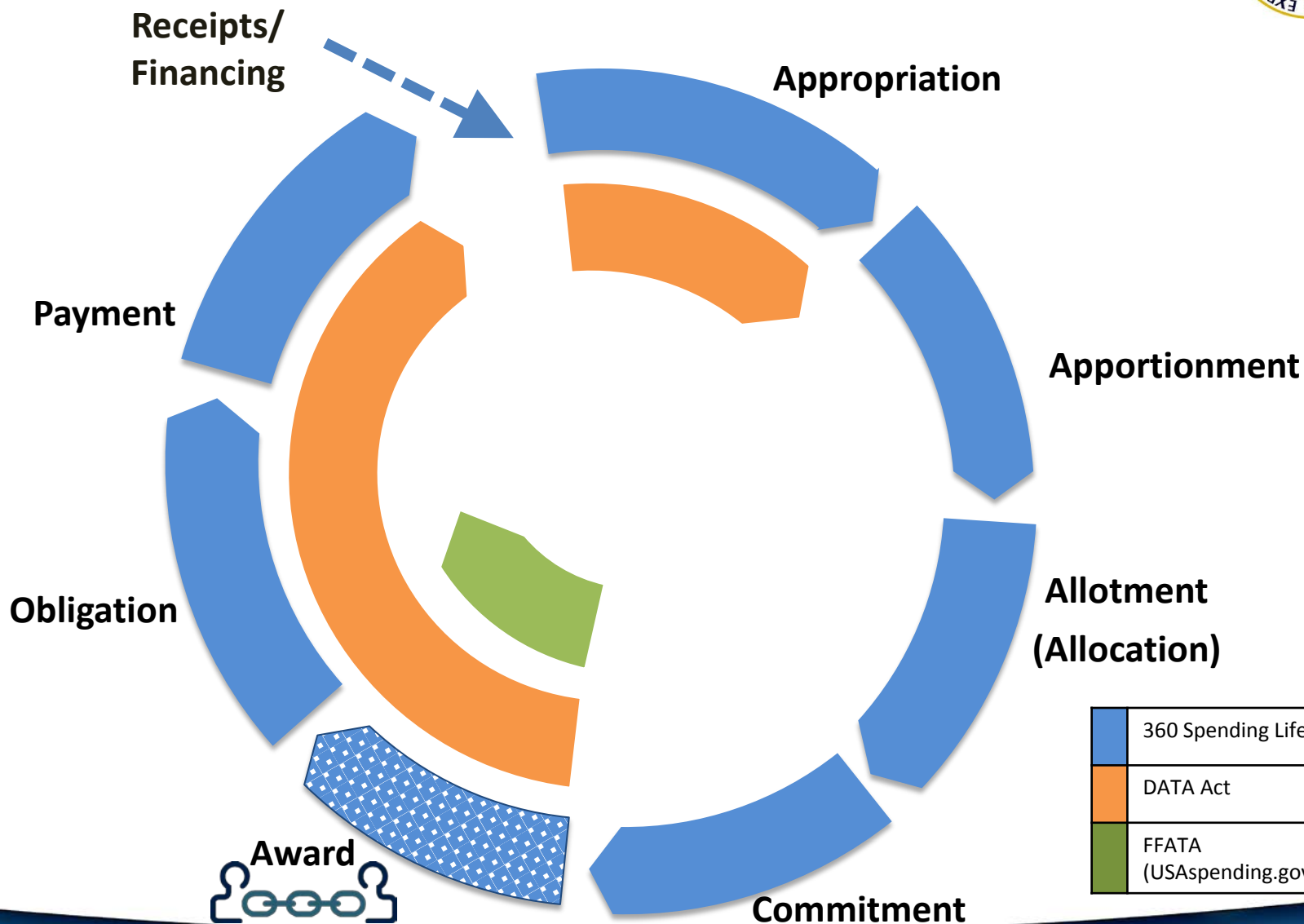


360° Spending Transparency





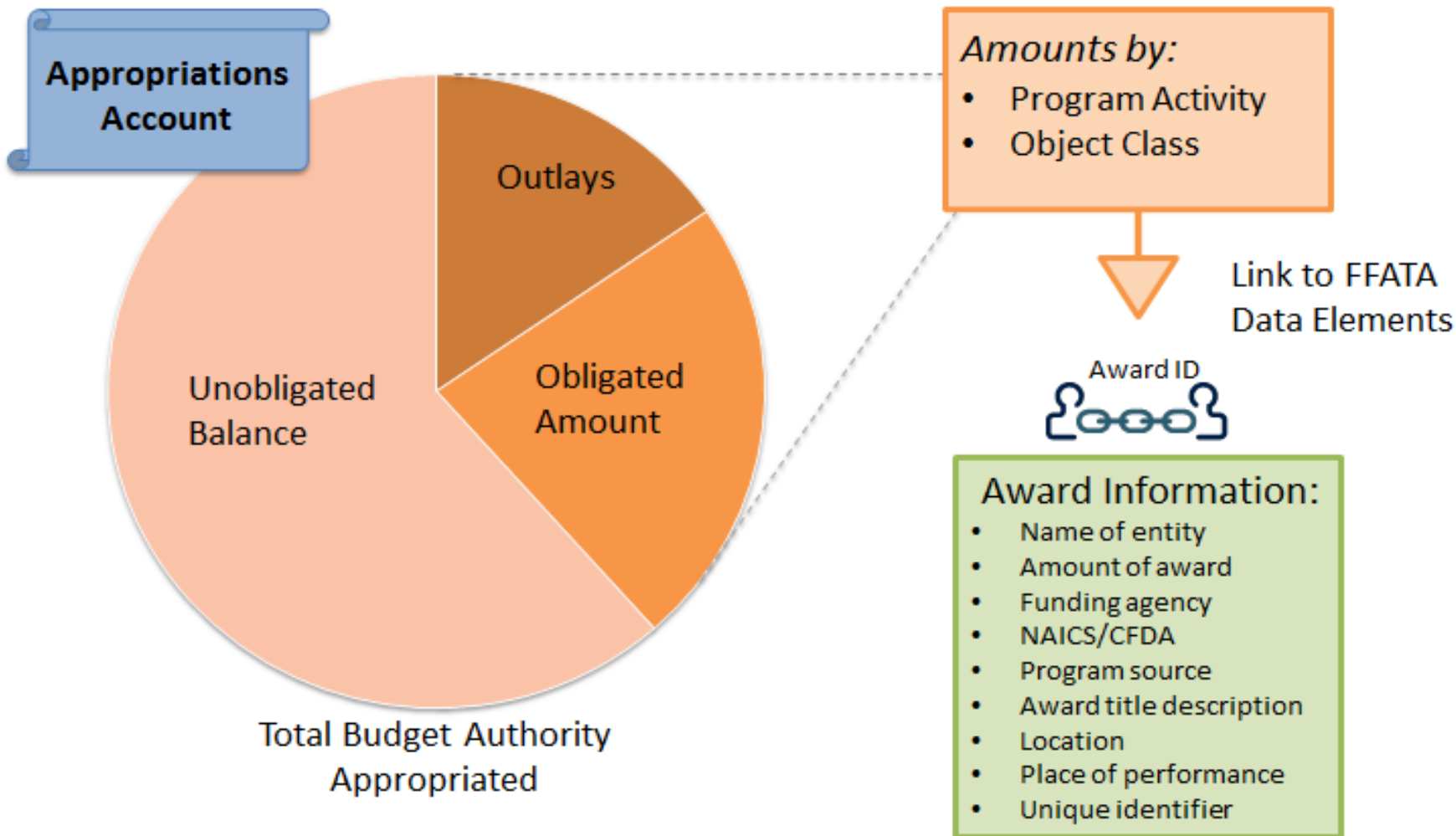
DATA Act in Context of Spending Life Cycle





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



Agency Financial Data

- Object class
- Program activity

Award ID



Summary level

Transactional level

Agency Award Data

- Recipient
- Location

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

Operational & Reporting

Financial Mgmt. & Budgeting



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