

Effective Management of Federal Grant Dollars: Council On Financial Assistance Reform (COFAR) Priorities for FY13-15

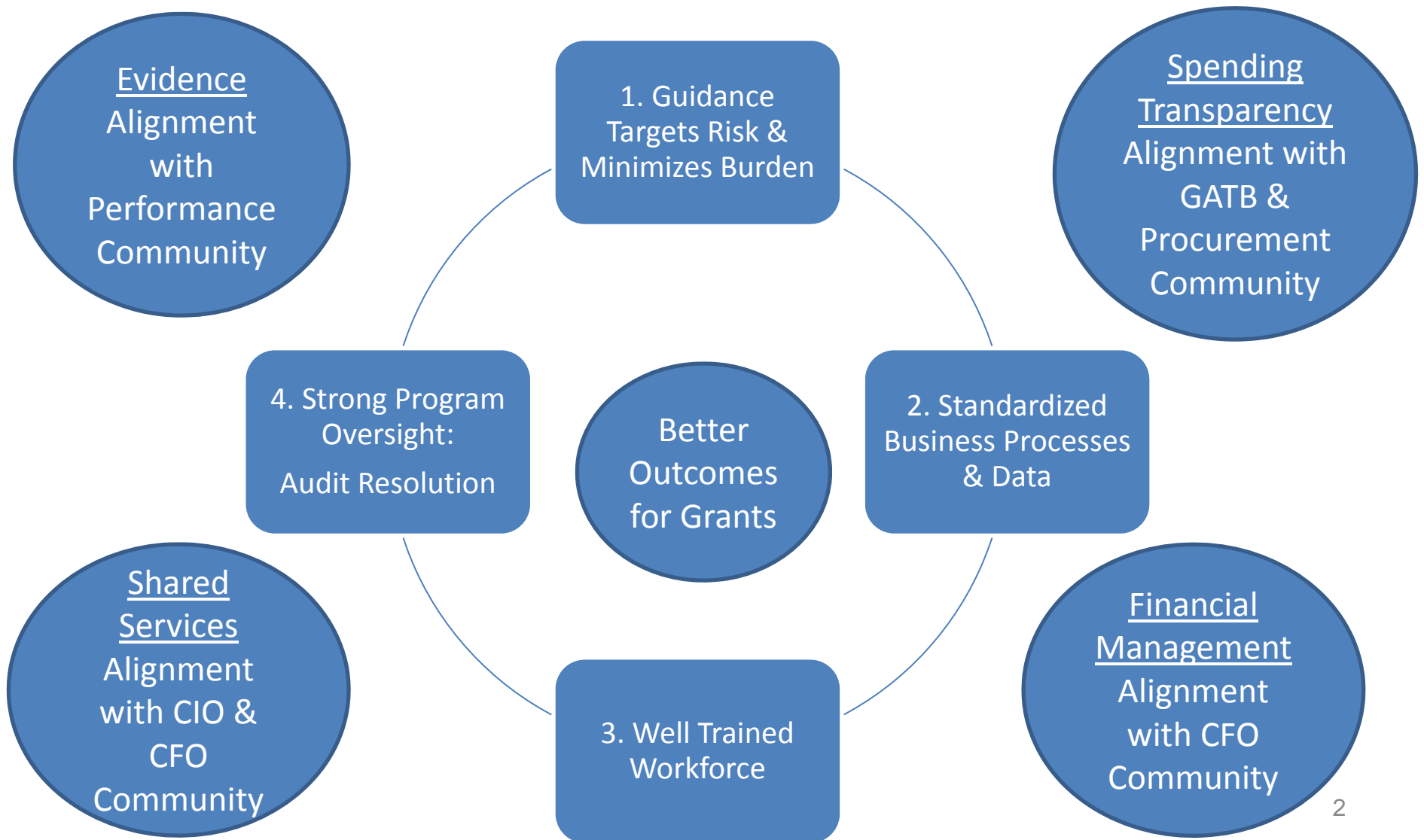
Federal Demonstration Partnership

January 7, 2014

The Council on Financial Assistance Reform was established in 2011 as a governance body to provide policy level leadership for the Federal grants community. For more information please visit cfo.gov/cofar.

COFAR Priorities:

Strong Controls Yield Better Outcomes



Framework for 2014 COFAR Activities

All deliverables will be strategically aligned to support effective implementation of guidance reform with minimum resource burden to Federal agencies and non-Federal entities.

Strong Program Oversight: Audit Resolution

Challenge

- Over 4,000 audited programs failed to receive clean opinions in 2011 (3% of total audited programs)
- No existing guidance holds agencies and recipients accountable for effectively correcting financial integrity weaknesses

Accomplishments

- September 2013: High risk programs and recipients identified
- November 2013: CAROI pilot results presented to COFAR principals

Strong Program Oversight: Audit Resolution

Short Term Deliverables

- December 2013: Document best practices on CAROI to contribute to resource repository
- February 2014: Complete framework for 2014 Compliance Supplement (w/preview of guidance implementation)
- March 2014: Compile and publish Federal agencies' audit resolution policies
- March 2014: Finalize Single Audit Metrics
- April 2014: Publish 2014 Compliance Supplement
- June 2014: FAC to deliver available standard and ad hoc reports and analytical tools

Long Term Deliverables

- July 2014: Reconvene to plan management decision letter pilot
- December 2014: Publish proposal to revise Data Collection Form and SEFA

Workforce Development

Challenge

- Lack of consistent standards for qualifying people to perform the grants management function
- No government-wide core training required of people performing the grants management function

Accomplishments

- December 2013: Competencies established
- December 2013: Resource repository built, available for use, and in test phase

Workforce Development

Short Term Deliverables

- June 2014: Refine governance and content of resource repository
- June 2014: Publish Grants 101 Course

Long Term Deliverables

- July 2014: Reconvene to discuss possible industry-wide credential framework or other long term vision

Grants Data Standardization

Challenges

- Over 700 distinct grant related forms approved in OMB database
- No current process to vet and validate existing data elements nor to create and validate new data elements
- Multiple stakeholders must be engaged to fully explore grants data standards and chart a successful path forward
- Non-standard data definitions compromise quality of publicly reported financial data

Accomplishments

- September 2013: Preliminary analysis of 1100 data elements
- September 2013: Contract awarded to support further analysis of data elements and development of governance framework
- December 2013: 99 standard definitions in final guidance

Grants Data Standardization

Short Term Deliverables

- December 2013: Grants data standardization proposed vision, project outline, and governance framework
- March 2014: HHS to brief COFAR on grants data standards records repository functional requirements

Long Term Deliverables

- June 2014: Brief COFAR on proof of concept for grants data standards
- July 2014: Reconvene to plan additional long term deliverables based on HHS and Treasury short term deliverables.

Risk-Based Guidance Targets Burden and Waste, Fraud & Abuse

Challenge

- 8 Different circulars provide duplicative and conflicting guidance
- Compliance requirements add burden without contributing to performance or reducing the risk of waste, fraud, & abuse

Accomplishments

- February 2012 – Advance Notice of Proposed Guidance
- February 2013- Notice of Proposed Guidance
- December 2013 – Final Guidance & Rollout Webcast

Risk-Based Guidance Targets Burden and Waste, Fraud & Abuse

Short Term Deliverables

- January 2014: Training webcast conducted
- March 2014: Establish metrics for guidance
- June 2014: Federal agencies submit draft regulations to OMB
- June 2014: Additional training webcasts planned/conducted as needed

Long Term Deliverables

- December 2014: Final guidance effective
- December 2014: Baseline metrics collected
- December 2014: Case studies of evidence/risk best practices

Timeline of COFAR Deliverables

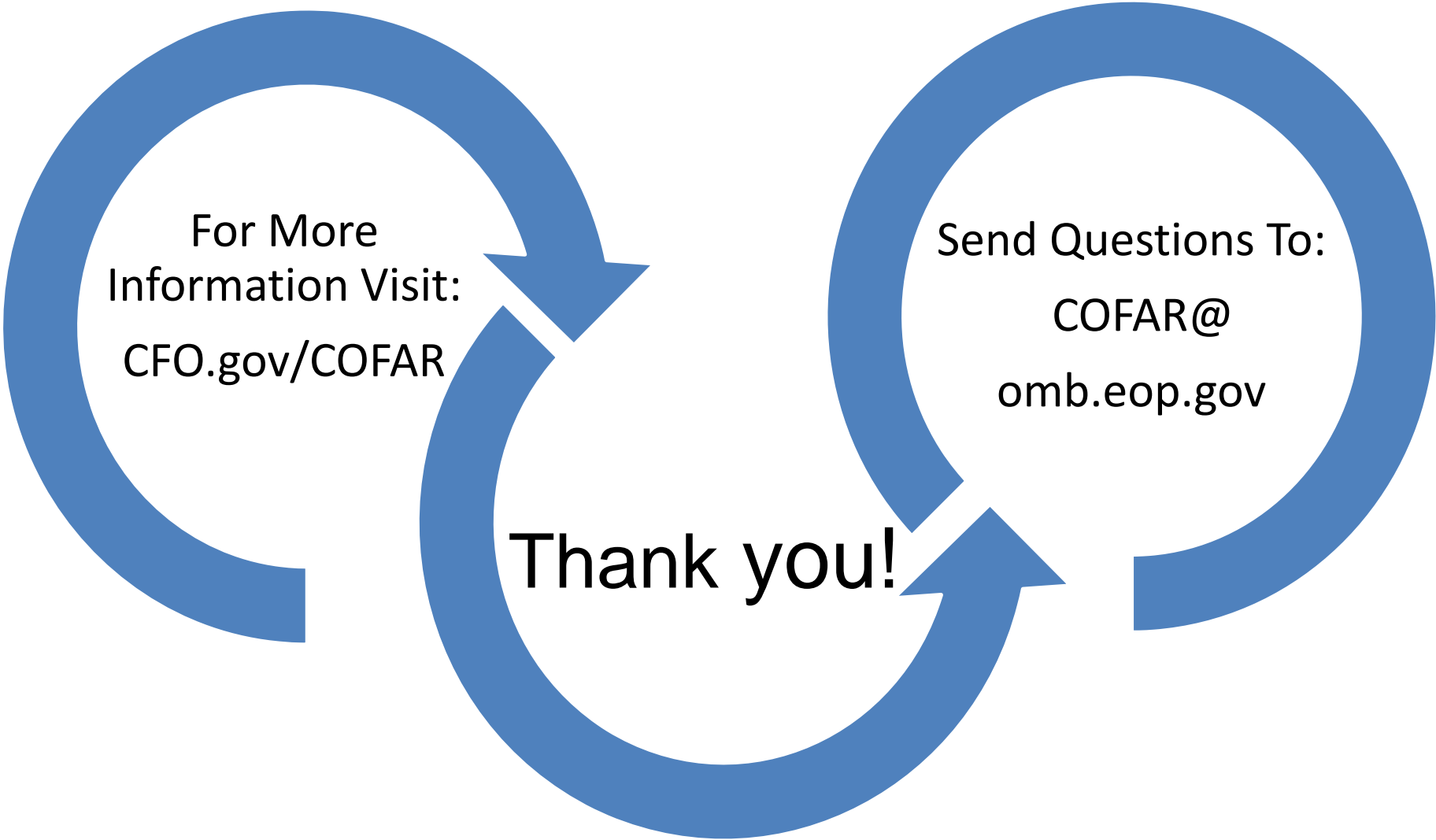
December 2013: Final guidance published, resource repository of crosswalks, side-by-sides, CAROI best practices & webcast

June 2014: Agencies submit draft rules to OMB, robust resource repository & Grants 101 Course available, Data Standards Repository

January-March 2014: Training webcasts, Single Audit & other Metrics, Compliance Supplement, Audit Resolution Policies, Provide feedback on Federal Spending Transparency improvement plans

December 2014: Final guidance effective, case studies in resource repository, consolidated DC Form and SEFA

Engage With COFAR



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Information Visit:
[CFO.gov/COFAR](https://www.CFO.gov/COFAR)

Send Questions To:
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Thank you!