



HHS ASFR OG Grants Data Standards

Strategic Plan Outline

August 2025



Contents

**Background
and Goals**

Pages 3-4

**Guiding
Principles**

Page 5

**Stakeholder
Engagement**

Page 6

**Governance
Approach**

Page 7

**Tranche
Defined**

Page 8

**Iterative
Approach**

Pages 9-11



Standards Strategy Outline

HHS and OMB are working together to establish grants data standards under the GREAT Act

OMB designated HHS as the governmentwide “standard-setting agency,” pursuant to the Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency (GREAT) Act.

HHS’s Office of Grants and OMB co-lead the grants data standards efforts to:

- Establish grants data standards;
- Issue guidance for implementation of those data standards; and
- Enable the collection, publication, and maintenance of new governmentwide datasets collected under the standards.

The Federal Grants ecosystem needs data standards **to enable information exchange and system interoperability** throughout the grants management lifecycle, **drive high-quality analysis** and reporting on federal grants activity, **understand the performance** of federal grants and programs, and **reduce the administrative burden** for recipients and grantors.

Defining and operationalizing Grants Data Standards will positively impact grants ecosystem stakeholders across four key areas



**Reduce
Recipient / Grantor
Burden**

Simplify applying
and reporting,
shifting focus to
grant outcomes over
compliance



**Promote
Performance**

Increase grant and
program oversight
through data-driven
decision-making



**Increase
Transparency**

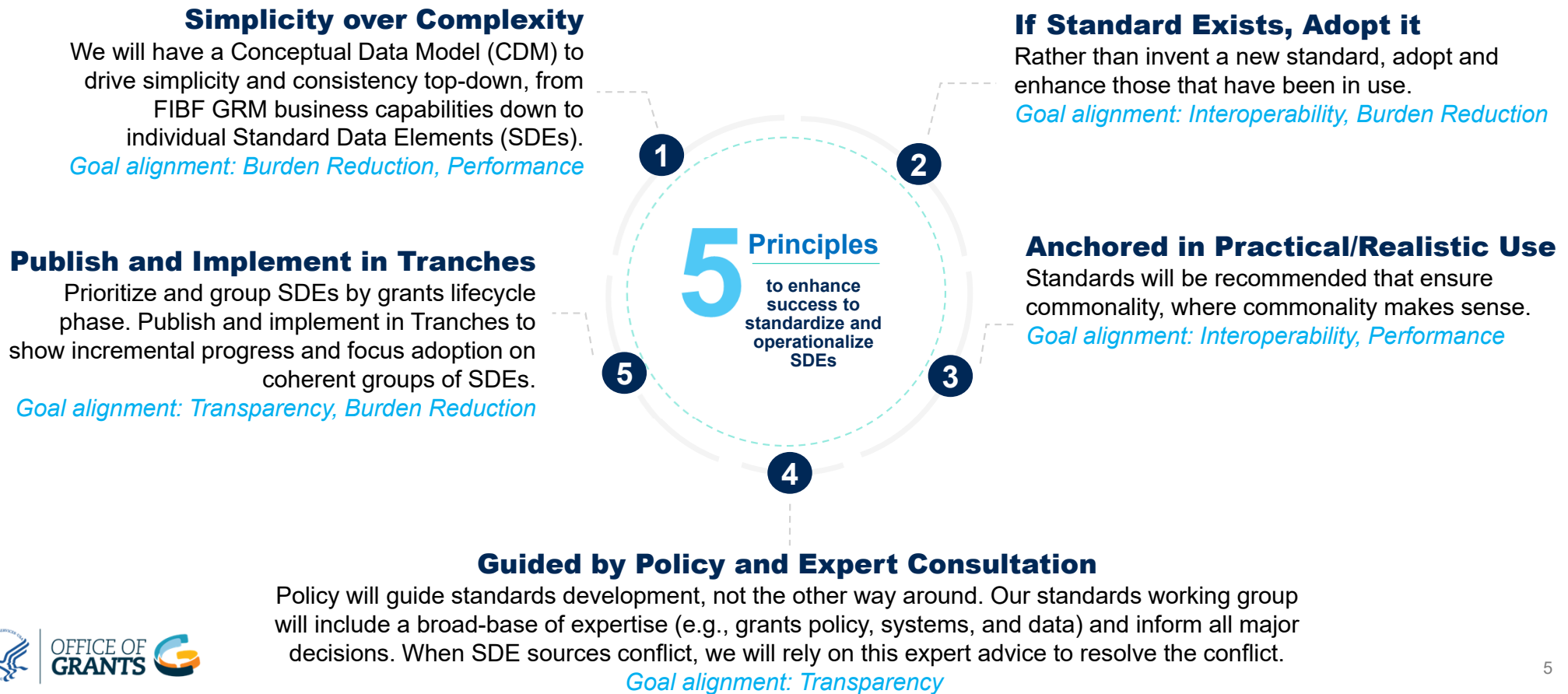
Enhance public trust,
accountability and
informed decision-
making



**Enable
Interoperability**

Streamline data
sharing, increase
use of shared
services, and reduce
vendor 'lock-in'

Key Principles Guide the Approach and Decisions for Defining and Operationalizing Standards



Consulting with stakeholders throughout standards development is a critical activity to establish, define guidance for, and operationalize the standards

Why does consulting with stakeholders matter for Grants Data Standards?



The **GREAT Act** mandates consultation with **six key stakeholder groups**, ensuring a broad range of inputs and perspectives.



Ensures various perspectives are considered, leading to more comprehensive, effective, and implementable data standards for federal grants.




Our approach to consultation is **informed by our guiding principles** and will adjust over time to fit the needs of each tranche.



Consultation approaches must be **tailored to the specific audience**, acknowledging that different agencies and stakeholders may require different engagement models.

A standing working group will advise HHS / OMB on standards, operationalization, outreach, implementation guidance, data collection, and publication

Working Group Structure	Description
 <p>Joint Leads (HHS / OMB) Responsibility</p> <p>Standards Working Group Responsibility</p> <p>Tranche/Domain Specific SMEs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint decision-making authority, per the GREAT Act• Determine overall strategy, order of work, and deadlines to drive efforts• Ensure agencies are engaged and informed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chaired by HHS Standards Lead with members from agencies with broad grants knowledge and expertise• Standing working group established under the COFFA brings consistent & diversified perspective to the development and implementation of individual tranches, as well as strategy for overall standards effort <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional domain specific subject matter experts will be engaged, as needed, to advise on the development of specific data standards relevant to their expertise / experience

Standards will be published and implemented in “Tranches” that broadly align to the Grants Lifecycle

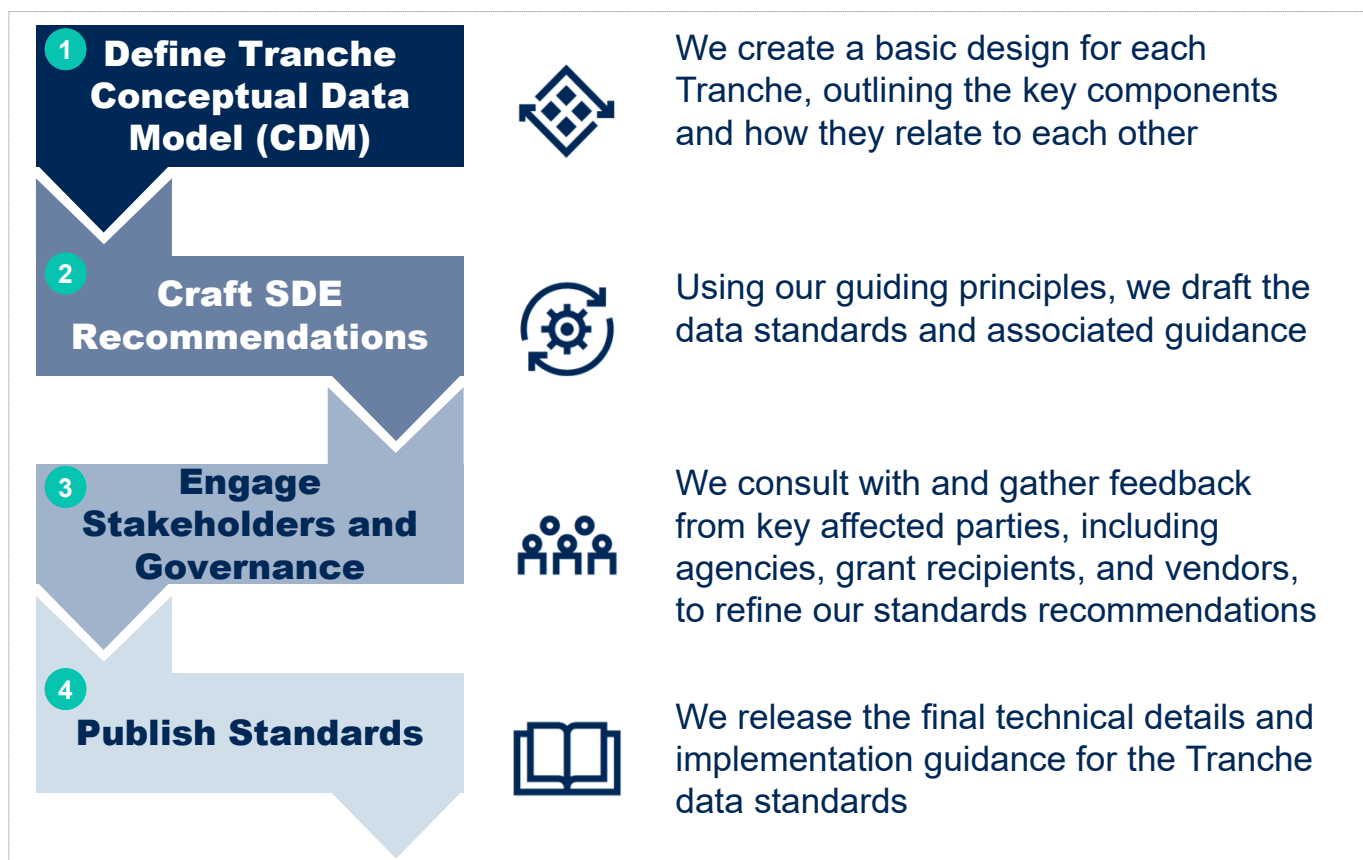
Why Implement Standards in Tranches?

- 1** Aligning tranches to the Grants Lifecycle ensures logical sequencing and attention to each stage.
- 2** Ensures we work across the entire Grants Lifecycle.
- 3** Iterative methodology provides flexibility and adaptability to changing needs, ensuring continuous refinement and improvement.



An iterative, sequential, tranche-based approach to publishing guidance for Grants Data Standards ensures comprehensive coverage, continuous improvement, and adaptability

The iterative approach to publishing Data Standards guidance by lifecycle Tranche will comprise four steps



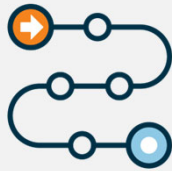
Our near-term focus is publishing finalized SDEs and guidance

Implementing Standards in systems, in partnership with the Grants QSMO, in a manner compatible with the forthcoming data portal, comes next

Ensuring continuous improvement and maintenance of the Standards is the long-term goal for our work



The timeline to successfully define and deploy Data Elements in service of the GREAT Act is anticipated to take the next 3-4 years



We expect the Tranche-based approach for implementation will take at least 3-4 years to develop and integrate grants or grants-adjacent data standards in agency systems

Notes on Implementation Timeline

- Data elements and associated guidance will be published in tranches aligned with the phases of the Grants Lifecycle, though the sequencing/order will adjust as needed:
 1. Program Setup (Assistance Listings)
 2. Pre-Award (NOFO)
 3. Application (including Forms)
 4. Award
 5. Payments
 6. Post-Award
 7. Program Oversight
 8. Single Audit
- Tranche specific guidance will direct awarding agencies to adopt data standards tranches in grants or grants-adjacent systems. Guidance issued will provide agencies sufficient time to implement in accordance with their existing business cycles.
- In addition to publishing guidance on data standards in tranches, we also plan for:
 1. Guidance on relevant grants Forms / Information Collections (anticipated in 1-2 years)
 2. Implementation of a portal for collection and display of data reported by award recipients (anticipated in 3+ years)
- The timeline will remain flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing policy priorities.

Some standards will be easier to implement than others – the approaches will be balanced through iterative delivery

Data Standards will be brought online in a way that balances the following:

- Our guiding principles
- Available funding
- Transparency needs
- Agency system refreshes/release lifecycle



Implementing standards is hard but worth the effort!

- Reduces administrative and applicant burden
- Improves quality and reportability of grants data
- Increased efficiencies, resulting in potential cost savings

Grants QSMO will drive implementation of data standards into shared services as well as through agency system investments