



# DATA Act Program Management Office



**OMB**  
Office of  
Management and  
Budget

## Office of Management and Budget

Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) – DAP Presentation

# DATA Act - Section 5 Grants Pilot

February 26, 2016

## Purpose

To provide an overview of key activities supporting the DATA Act at HHS and execution of the Section 5 Grants Pilot.

## Discussion Topics

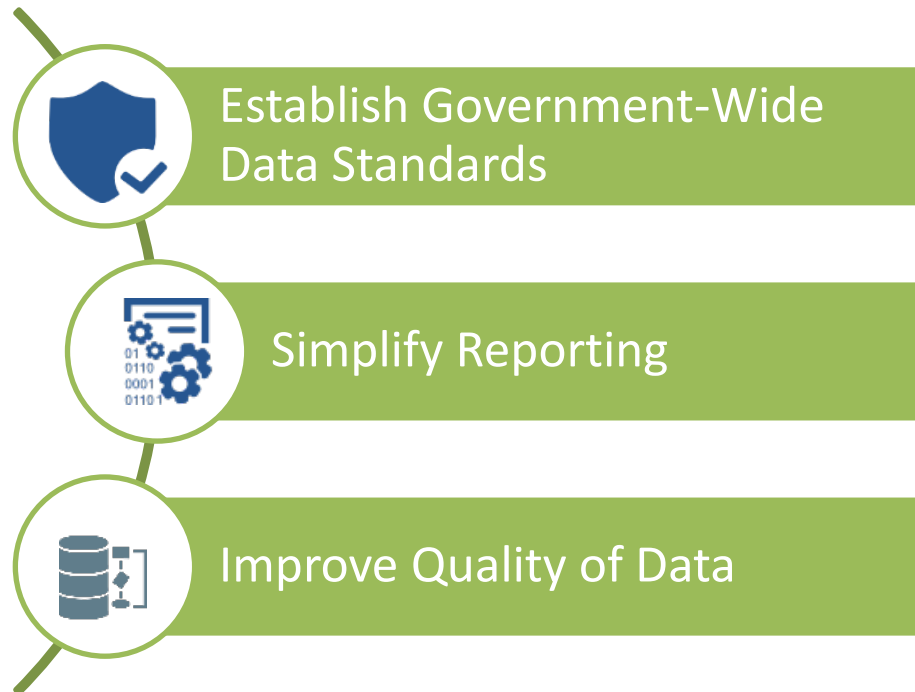
DATA Act Overview

Section 5 Grants Pilot

Data Centric Vision

Opportunities for Involvement

In May 2014, Public Law 113-101 Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) was signed into law with the purpose to establish government-wide financial data standards and increase the availability, accuracy, and usefulness of federal spending information.



The goal of the Pilot is to implement Section 5 of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-101, which requires the Federal Government to, “ establish a pilot program with the participation of appropriate Federal agencies to facilitate the development of recommendations for –



(A) standardized reporting elements across the Federal government (§5(b)(1)(A));



(B) the elimination of unnecessary duplication in financial reporting (§5(b)(1)(B));



(C) the reduction of compliance costs for recipients of Federal awards (§5(b)(1)(C)).”

***The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has engaged HHS to serve as the executing agent for the Section 5 Grants Pilot.***



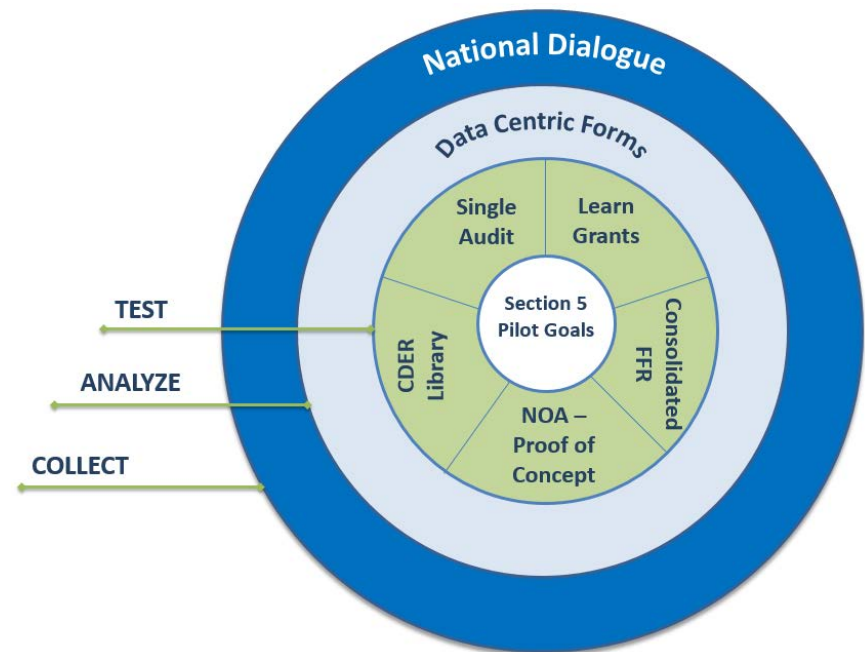
Activity	Deadline
<b>Section 5: Establish Pilot program that will generate recommendations to standardize reporting, eliminate duplication and unnecessary reports, and reduce compliance costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish 1 year after enactment</li><li>• Complete within 2 years after pilot established</li><li>• May 2015 – May 2017</li></ul>
<b>Section 5: Report on results of pilot</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 90 days after pilot completion</li><li>• August 2017</li></ul>
<b>Section 5: Guidance to agencies on how data standards can reduce burden and simplify reporting requirements/eliminate duplication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 year after Report</li><li>• August 2018</li></ul>

- While Federal awarding and reporting processes have similarities, there are unique burden areas that merit exploration for burden reduction. To accommodate those award-specific areas, two tracks are underway for Federal procurement and Federal grants.
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has partnered with HHS to serve as the executing agent for the Section 5 Grants Pilot.

DAP created the Section 5 Grants Pilot Framework, which takes a holistic approach to meeting the Section 5 Pilot Goals by:

- *Collecting* feedback through the National Dialogue (<https://cxo.dialogue2.cao.gov/>).
- *Analyzing* data centric forms.
- *Testing* models like the CDER Library, Consolidated FFR, Single Audit, NOA – POC, Learn Grants, and other models as appropriate.
- Each component of the Framework interacts with and informs the others.
- Time frames associated with each test model will align with legislative requirements to execute the Pilot by May 2017, and support OMB’s report due to Congress by August 2017.

## Section 5 Grants Pilot Framework



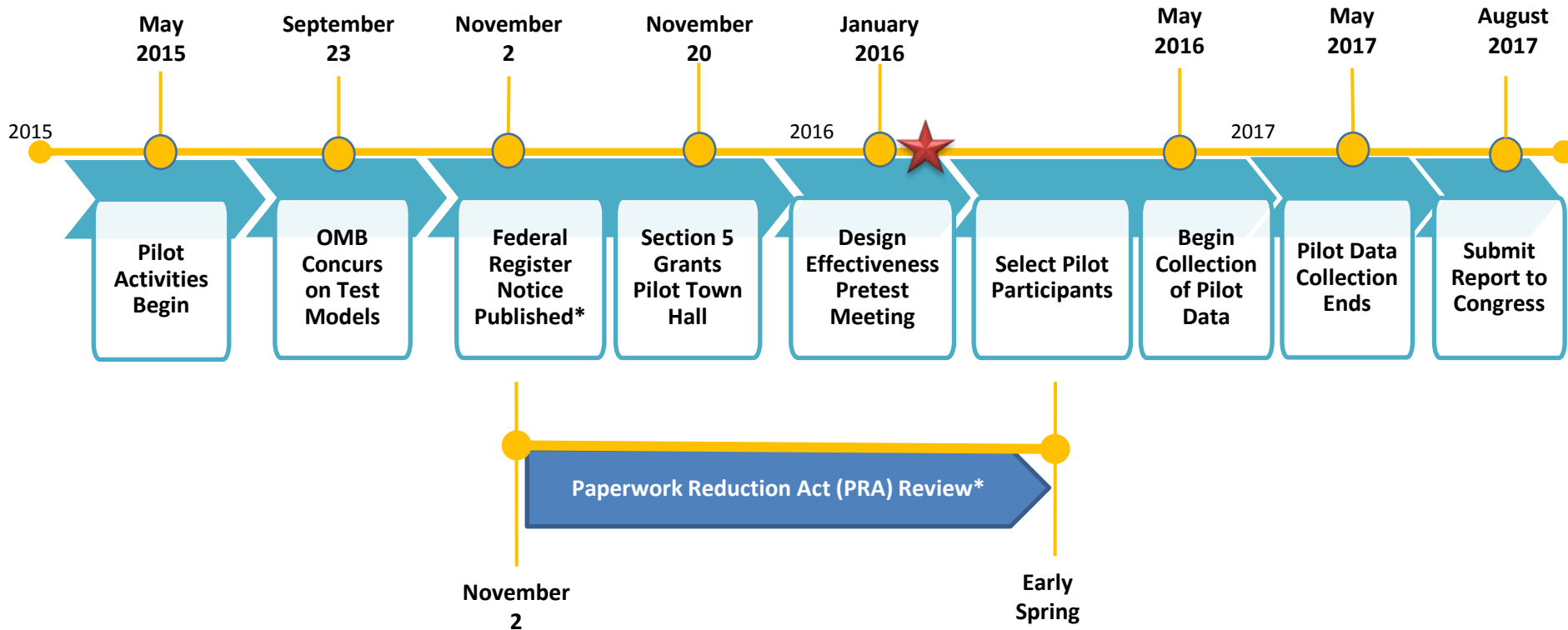
### Section 5 Pilot Goals

- ✓ Standardize reporting elements.
- ✓ Eliminate unnecessary duplication.
- ✓ Reduce compliance costs for Federal award recipients.

# Section 5 Grants Pilot Update

DAP has conducted a Town Hall, a series of Subject Matter Expert (SME) meetings, and a Pretest Meeting to inform the development of the Section 5 Grants Pilot test models.

Groups represented included: FDP, AGA, NGMA, DTC, ACT-IAC, NCURA



 Present time

## Upcoming Conferences

NGMA (Arlington, VA) – March  
AGA (Anaheim, CA) – July  
NCURA (Washington, DC) – August

\*The Federal Register Notice is a component of the PRA Review.



## Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library

**Designed to be a federal-wide, online repository for grants-specific data standards, definitions, and context.**

**Test 1:** Provide grantees with data element definitions to identify potential changes in accuracy and speed of grant lifecycle form completion.

**Test 2:** Identify form duplication and update/reduce forms to reduce grantee burden.

## Consolidated Federal Financial Reporting (FFR)

**A test model that will allow grantees to submit the FFR form in one system, rather than in multiple entry systems.**

**Test:** Provide grantees with one consolidated process for submitting the FFR to identify potential changes in the time it takes to complete and submit two separate components of the FFR.

**Discussion:** Walk participants through the changes to the FFR and allow for questions/feedback.

## Single Audit

**A financial statement audit of an organization's federal funds.**

**Test:** Provide grantees with draft 2016 expanded Single Audit form (SF-SAC only) and collect participant feedback on a more streamlined approach for SF-SAC/SEFA reporting.

**Discussion:** Present draft expanded Single Audit form and allow participants to comment upon the SF-SAC changes in a live setting.

## Notice of Award – Proof of Concept (NOA – POC)

**A document containing information a grant recipient needs to perform routine accounting and finance operations.**

**Test:** Provide grantees with standardized NOA cover sheet for Federal awards to populate a data collection tool. Identify potential changes in speed of completing the data collection tool with and without the standardized NOA.

## Learn Grants

**An online web portal that provides information for grant recipients to access federal grant lifecycle information.**

**Test:** Determine users' level of understanding on the grants lifecycle after using Learn Grants.

The **Common Data Element Repository (CDER) Library** is designed to be a federal-wide online, searchable repository for grants-specific data standards, definitions, and context. The CDER Library provides a forum to engage federal and public stakeholders in further defining federal financial and business terms/definitions inclusive of agreed-upon standardized data elements. *Through the Section 5 Grants Pilot, we will test the utility of the CDER Library to:*



**Access the CDER Library:** <https://repository.usaspending.gov/poc-tool/>

**Test 1:** Provide grantees with data element definitions to identify potential changes in accuracy and speed of grant lifecycle form completion.

**Test 2:** Identify form duplication and update/reduce forms to reduce grantee burden.

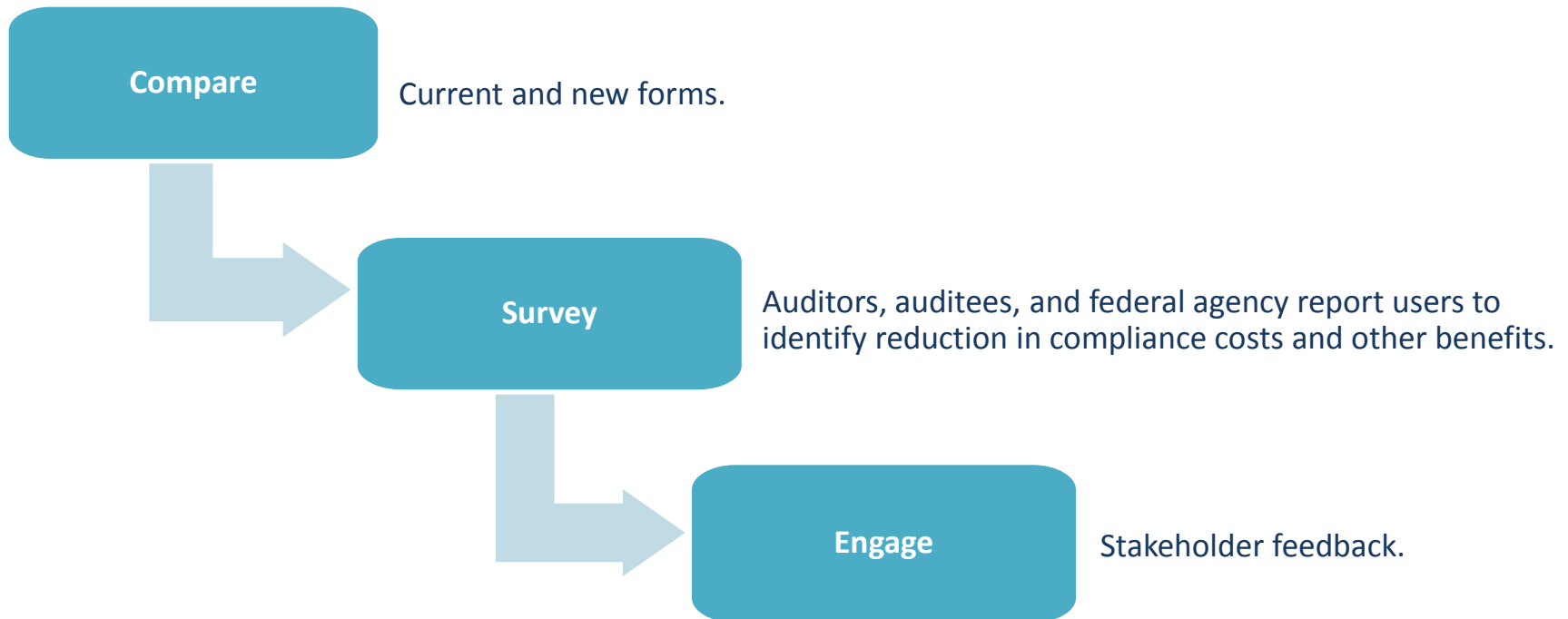
The **Consolidated FFR** test model will identify reductions in burden for both grantees and the Federal Government. The Consolidated FFR will allow grantees to submit the FFR form in one system, rather than in multiple entry systems. This will allow for a single point of data entry, earlier validation of FFR data, and a potential future streamlining of the close-out process.



**Test:** Provide grantees with one portal in which to submit the entire FFR and identify potential changes in the time it takes to complete and submit the FFR in two separate portals.

The [GRIP](#) June 2013 recommends a pilot using standard data elements for the FFR/SF-425 to further test the objective of centralized reporting for grantees. HHS will work with PMS, ACF, and ACF grantees to execute this related model.

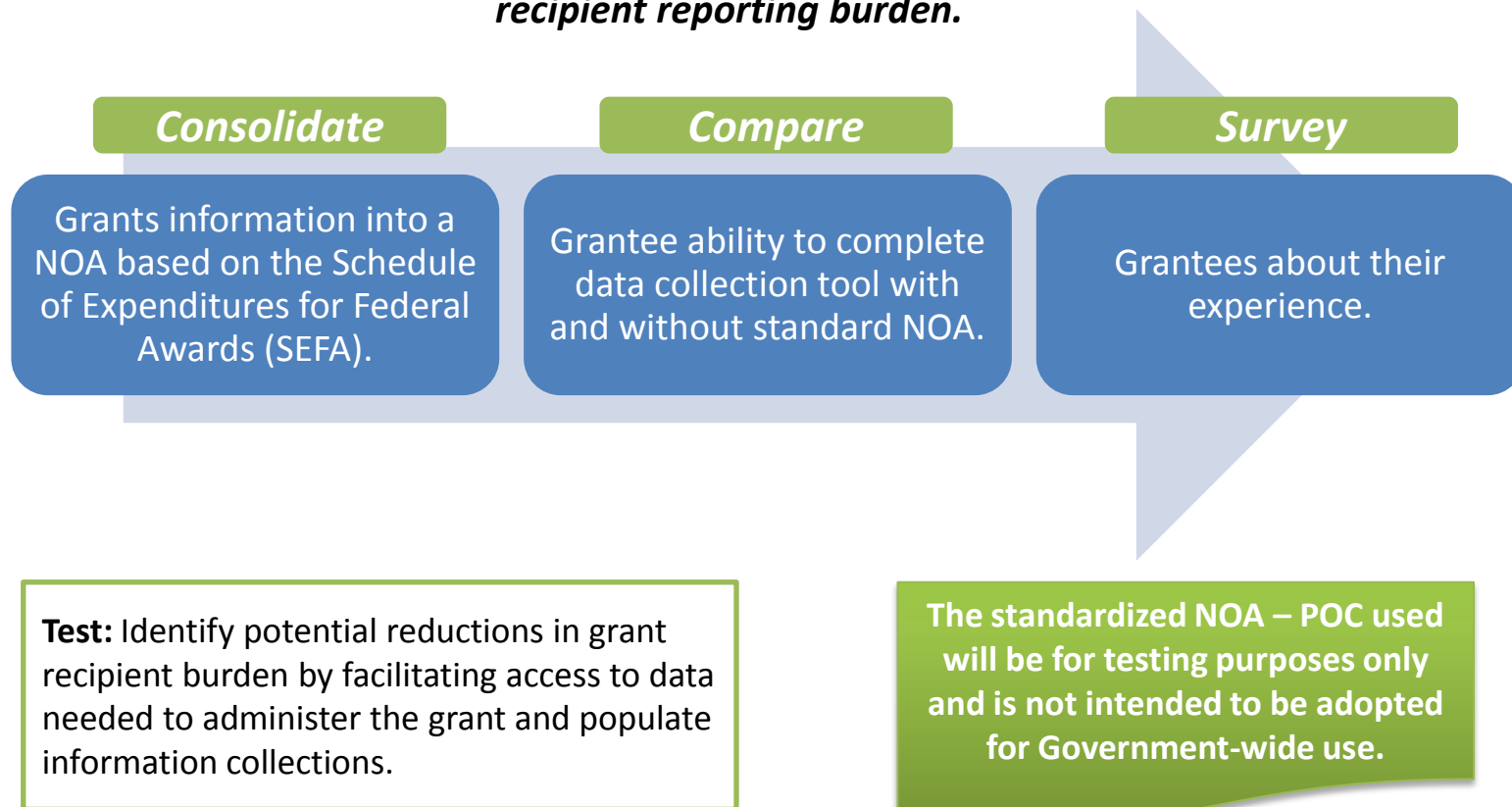
**Single Audit**, previously known as the OMB A-133 audit, is a financial statement audit of an organization's federal funds. The Single Audit is intended to provide assurance to the Federal Government that a recipient has internal controls and compliance over these funds. Recipients typically include states, cities, universities, and non-profit organizations.



**Test:** Provide grantees with draft 2016 expanded Single Audit form (SF-SAC only) and collect participant feedback on a more streamlined approach for SF-SAC/SEFA reporting.

The **NOA** is a document that contains information that grant recipients need in order to perform routine accounting and finance operations. NOAs often differ in format and content across both departments and agencies. For grant recipients with funding from various government sources, this becomes a burden when searching for information across awards.

*Data from the NOA – POC test model may inform ways to increase efficiency and reduce grant recipient reporting burden.*



**Learn Grants** provides information for grant recipients to access federal grant lifecycle information via the “Learn Grants” tab. The data gathered from this test model will be both qualitative and quantitative.



**Access Learn Grants:**

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html>

Since May 2015, Learn Grants has received an average of 54,915 visits. On average, 62% of responding users continue to rate the tool 8 out of 10 or higher in its ability to answer their questions.

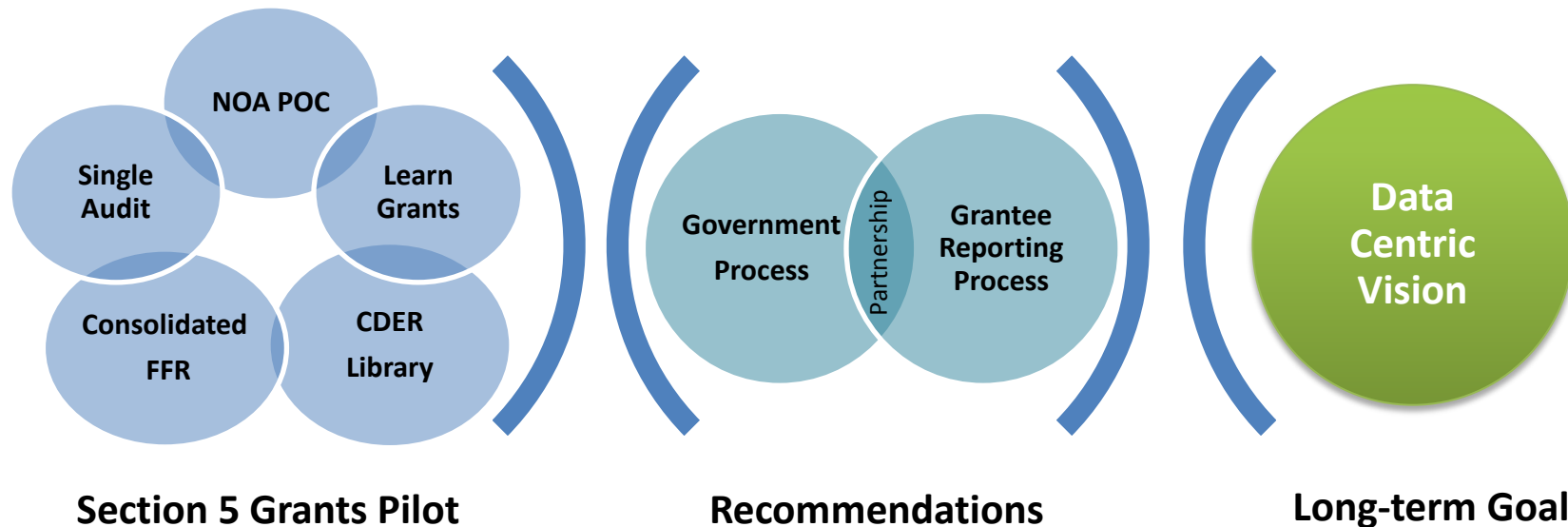
Fosters greater public transparency into the grants lifecycle and community engagement.

Designed to reduce stakeholder burden associated with trying to learn, find, and apply for federal grants.

Provides a comprehensive point of reference to access federal grants lifecycle information.

**Test:** Determine users’ level of understanding on the grants lifecycle after using Learn Grants.

The Section 5 Grants Pilot provides an opportunity to identify areas for streamlining the grants reporting process by testing models that address both government and grantee reporting processes.



There are several ways to participate in DATA Act activities.



Send inquiries and feedback to  
[DATAActPMO@hhs.gov](mailto:DATAActPMO@hhs.gov).



Visit the DAP Website at  
[www.hhs.gov/dataactpmo](http://www.hhs.gov/dataactpmo).



Follow DAP on Twitter at  
[www.twitter.com/HHS\\_DAP](http://www.twitter.com/HHS_DAP).



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Join the National Dialogue at  
<https://cxo.dialogue2.cao.gov>.



For more information on the DATA Act, visit  
<https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/Data-Act.aspx>.