# Agenda

- Introductions

- Setting the Stage

- What is Announcement Services?

  - Grants Life Cycle

  - Overview

  - Benefits

  - Compliance

- Recent Enhancements

  - Directed Announcements

  - NOFO Readability

  - NOFO Goals

- System Walk-Through

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# Setting the Stage

Housekeeping:

✓ We will use the Teams Q&A box to field questions

✓ Please refrain from asking questions in the Chat box
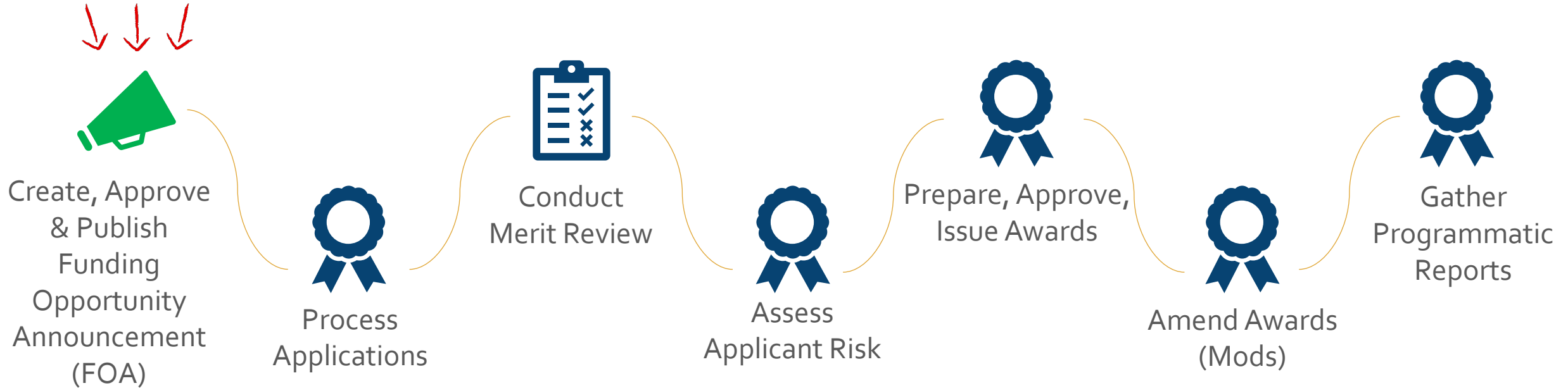
The Announcement Services Master Series is:

✓ An overview of Announcement Services and the benefits it offers our partner agencies

✓ An overview of the latest enhancements available to Announcement Services partners

✓ An opportunity to write down any question(s) identified during the presentation

✓ An opportunity to document business process questions to discuss with Agency Leads

The Announcement Services Master Series is NOT:

✓ An opportunity to suggest changes to the GrantSolutions Announcement Services system

✓ A platform to discuss business process changes

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# Announcement Services Overview

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# Grants Life Cycle

Create, Approve & Publish Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Process Applications

Conduct Merit Review

Assess Applicant Risk

Prepare, Approve, Issue Awards

Amend Awards (Mods)

Gather Programmatic Reports

AS: Announcement Services

GMM: Grants Management Services

ARM: Application Review Services

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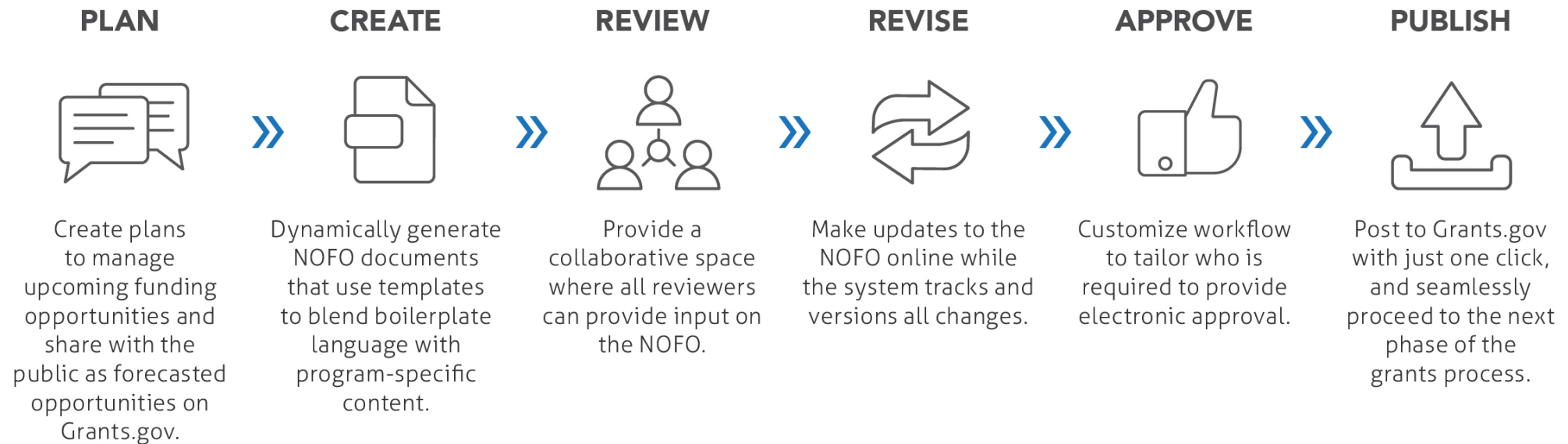
# Announcement Services - Overview

**Purpose**
Streamlines the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) planning, creation, approval, and publication process

| PLAN | CREATE | REVIEW | REVISE | APPROVE | PUBLISH |
|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Create plans to manage upcoming funding opportunities and share with the public as forecasted opportunities on Grants.gov. | Dynamically generate NOFO documents that use templates to blend boilerplate language with program-specific content. | Provide a collaborative space where all reviewers can provide input on the NOFO. | Make updates to the NOFO online while the system tracks and versions all changes. | Customize workflow to tailor who is required to provide electronic approval. | Post to Grants.gov with just one click, and seamlessly proceed to the next phase of the grants process. |

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# Benefits



"I have some paperwork to catch up. If I'm not back in two days, organize a search and rescue team!"
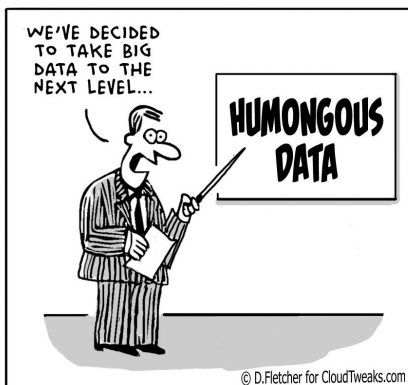
**Document Integrity, Efficiencies**

- FOA templates provided to reduce Author(s) efforts and ensure document quality

- Only one working copy of the FOA with custom editing limitations

**Traceability, Transparency**

- Automatic notifications and custom reminders

- Automated process that shows past, present and future stages



"Please don't ask me to remind you to do anything else for awhile."



WE'VE DECIDED TO TAKE BIG DATA TO THE NEXT LEVEL... HUMONGOUS DATA

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**Data Quality, Data Analytics**

- Seamless integration with Grants.gov and GMM

- Data shared across FOA document, reducing double-data entry

- BI Reporting

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# Compliance

**OMB Guidelines**

- FOA Templates comply with the OMB established standard document structure

- Admin users can easily implement OMB required changes with limited user interruption utilizing the Admin module

- System and exports are 508 compliant

**Grants.gov Guidelines**

- All Grants.gov required fields are marked required and validated well in advance of the Publication

- Grants.gov character and selection limitations are met within the system to prevent user frustration



Your report on *government regulation updates* is good, but does it comply with all *government regulations?*

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# Recent Enhancements

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# Directed Announcements

**What it is:**

- New configuration prompting users to select specific recipients that may apply to a NOFO

- Directed recipients are automatically notified via email upon publication to GMM

**Why it's here:**

- Streamlines and consolidates the process of creating directed announcements

- Saves time for both grantors and recipients with automated notifications

- One of our most frequently requested enhancements by partners!

# NOFO Readability

**What it is:**

- Adds the ability for users to score the readability of their funding opportunities based on the Flesch Reading Ease and Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level evaluations

- NOFOs are to be graded prior to publication to Grants.gov

**Why it's here:**

- HHS initiative to write NOFOs in more plain language, derived from executive orders EO 13985 and EO 14091

- Goal is to make federal funding more accessible to traditionally underserved communities

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# NOFO Goals

**What it is:**

- Functionality to allow users to enter Funding Opportunity Goals into the FOA Content

- Goals will be sent to USASpending upon publication

**Why it's here:**

- Effective October 1, 2023, federal agencies must report Funding Opportunity Goals to USASpending for competitive grants and cooperative agreements

- Mandated by OMB Memo M-22-02

- Aim is to increase transparency of how federal dollars are spent

# System Walk-Through

Questions?