

# Data Act Implementation

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PRESENTATION TO CIGIE AND GAO'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT  
CONFERENCE

APRIL 28, 2015

# DATA Act Summary

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- 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.
- Takes steps to simplify financial reporting and reduce recipient reporting burden.

# Accountability and IG Community Involvement

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- The DATA Act specifies that agency IGs must report on the “completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the implementation and use of data standards by the Federal agency”
- First report must be issued by November 2016
- GAO required to report on government-wide implementation of the data standards by November 2017

# Federal Spending Transparency: Goals

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***Improve federal spending data quality*** across the government through effective implementation of the DATA Act

***Increase public access*** to federal spending information by refreshing the USAspending.gov website to be more user-friendly and transparent


Work with federal and non-federal stakeholders to ***communicate our commitment to improving spending transparency*** and to stay informed of the public's concerns and interests

Develop a source of financial data that can be used with other datasets to ***improve decision-making*** across federal and non-federal organizations


# Better data, better decisions, better government

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Agencies will have higher quality spending data and a more complete picture of where their federal funds go

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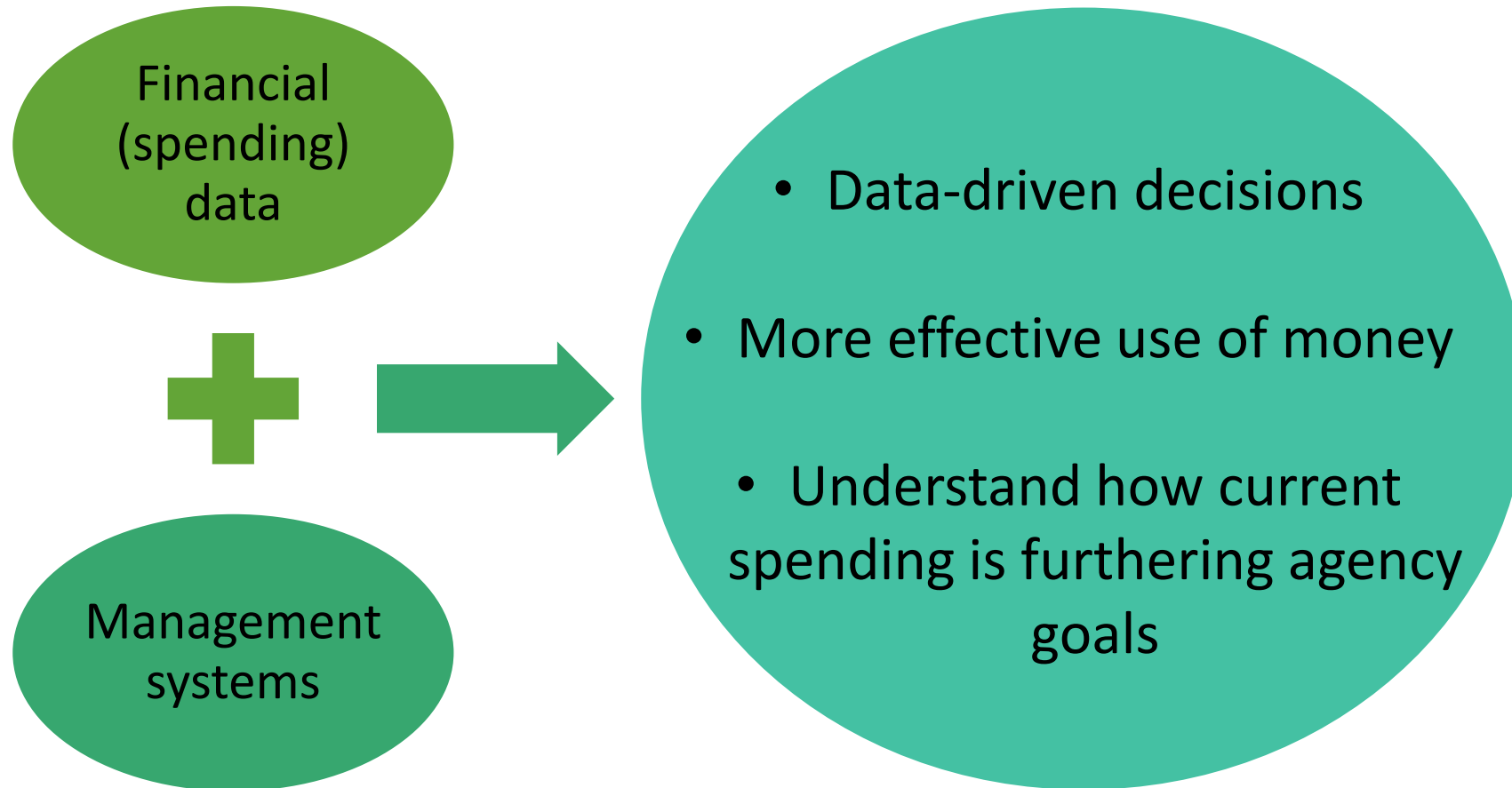
Management will have more data, more tools, and more insight into how to improve performance

A light green arrow pointing downwards, indicating a flow from the second box to the third.

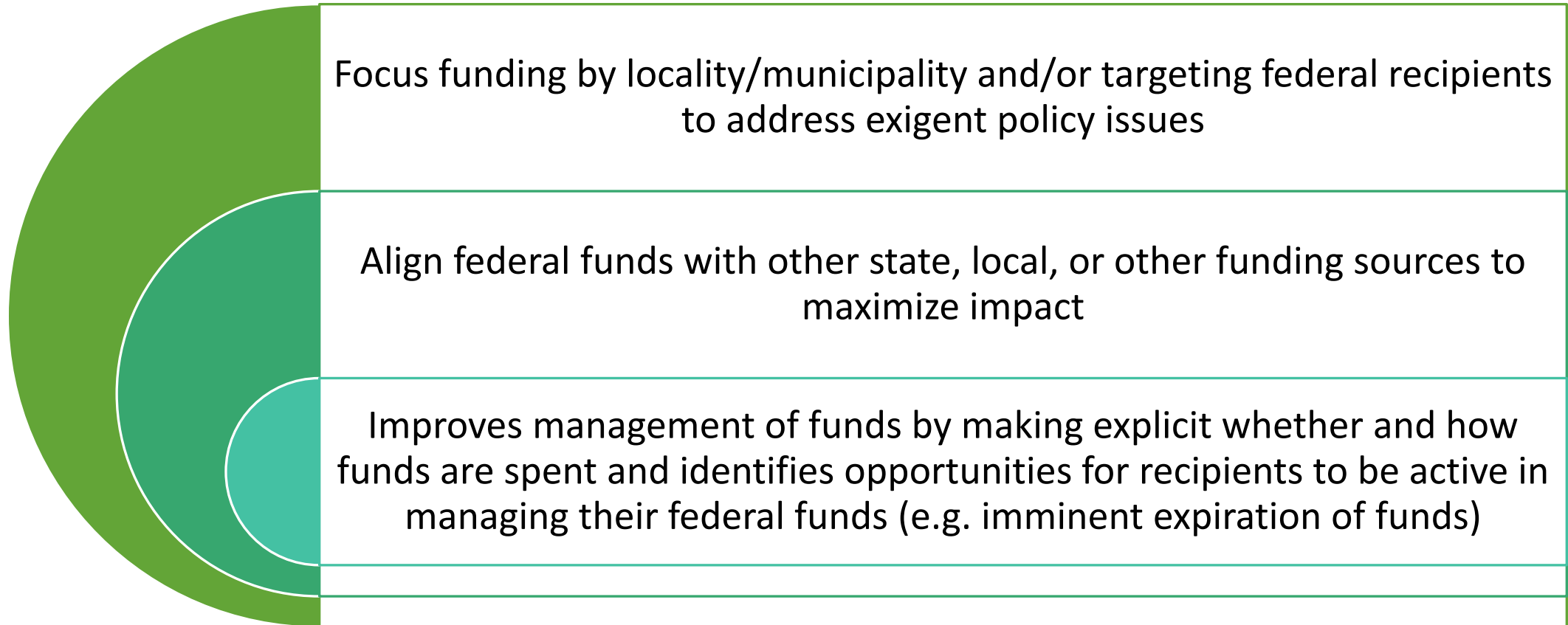
What can agencies do with these improvements?

# Use financial data to make better management decisions

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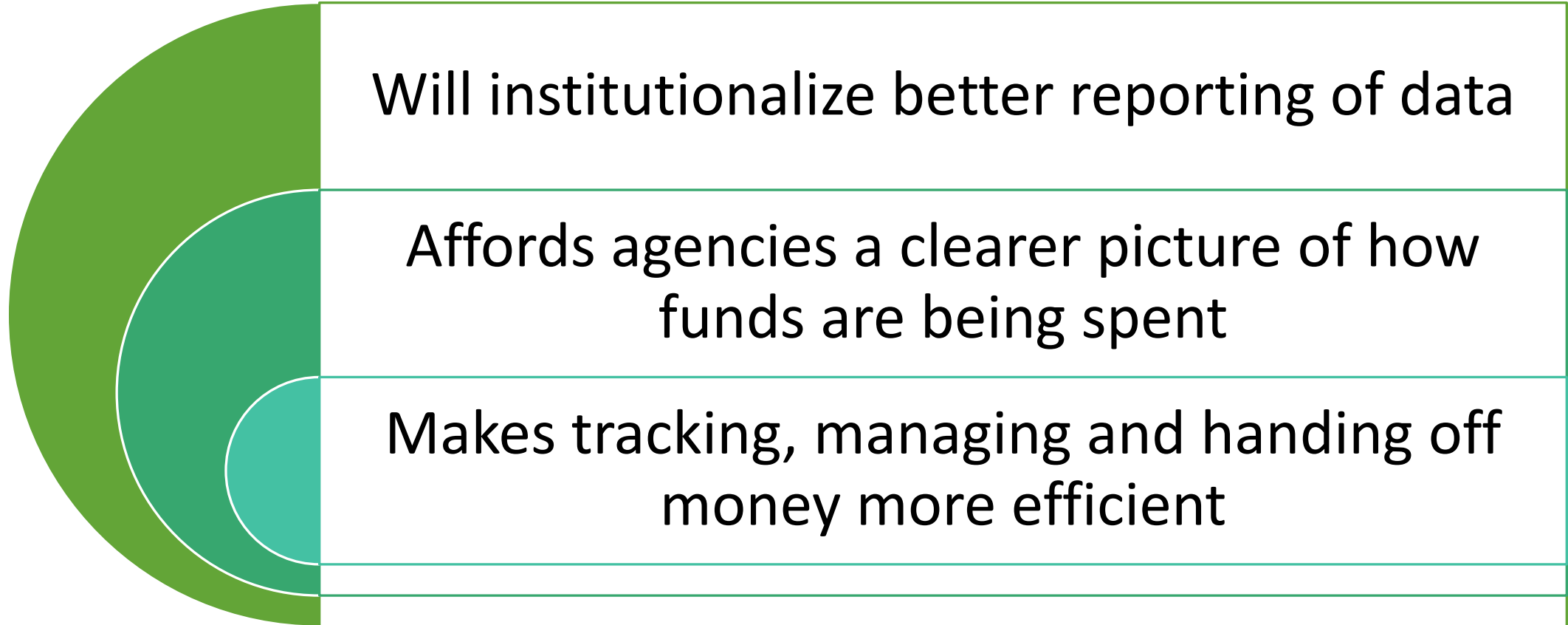


# Target funding to recipients to maximize impact



# Improve operations and increase efficiency

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# Respond to criticisms from watchdogs

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- Improved spending data will help identify areas of duplication and waste

- Agencies will be better positioned to either defend against allegations of unnecessary spending, or to take actions to respond

# Update on implementation: where we are and where we're going

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## Current

- Working with stakeholders to develop data definition standards
- Identifying necessary policy changes and implementation steps

## May 2015

- Issuing policy guidance to agencies
- Issuing financial data standards
- Issuing data exchange
- Launching pilot to reduce reporting burden

## May 2017 and beyond

- Ongoing standardization of data definitions
- Agencies fully implement policy guidance and necessary systems changes
- USA Spending refreshed to display additional spending data

# Governance and Implementation Structure

Executive Steering Committee – OMB and Treasury

Inter-Agency Advisory Committee – OMB, Treasury, and  
Representatives from: CFOC, BOAC, ACE, COFAR, CAOC, CIOC, PIC, OSTP, GSA

## 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  
agencies

## Consult

Industry

Non-Federal  
stakeholders

Federal Lines of  
Business

# What's next for agencies

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## Organize team

Within agency, identify stakeholders and roles

Determine available resources and plan coordination

## Review systems

Locate all 83 data elements within systems

Analyze business processes and data inventory

Understand where likely changes will have to be made

## Design and strategize

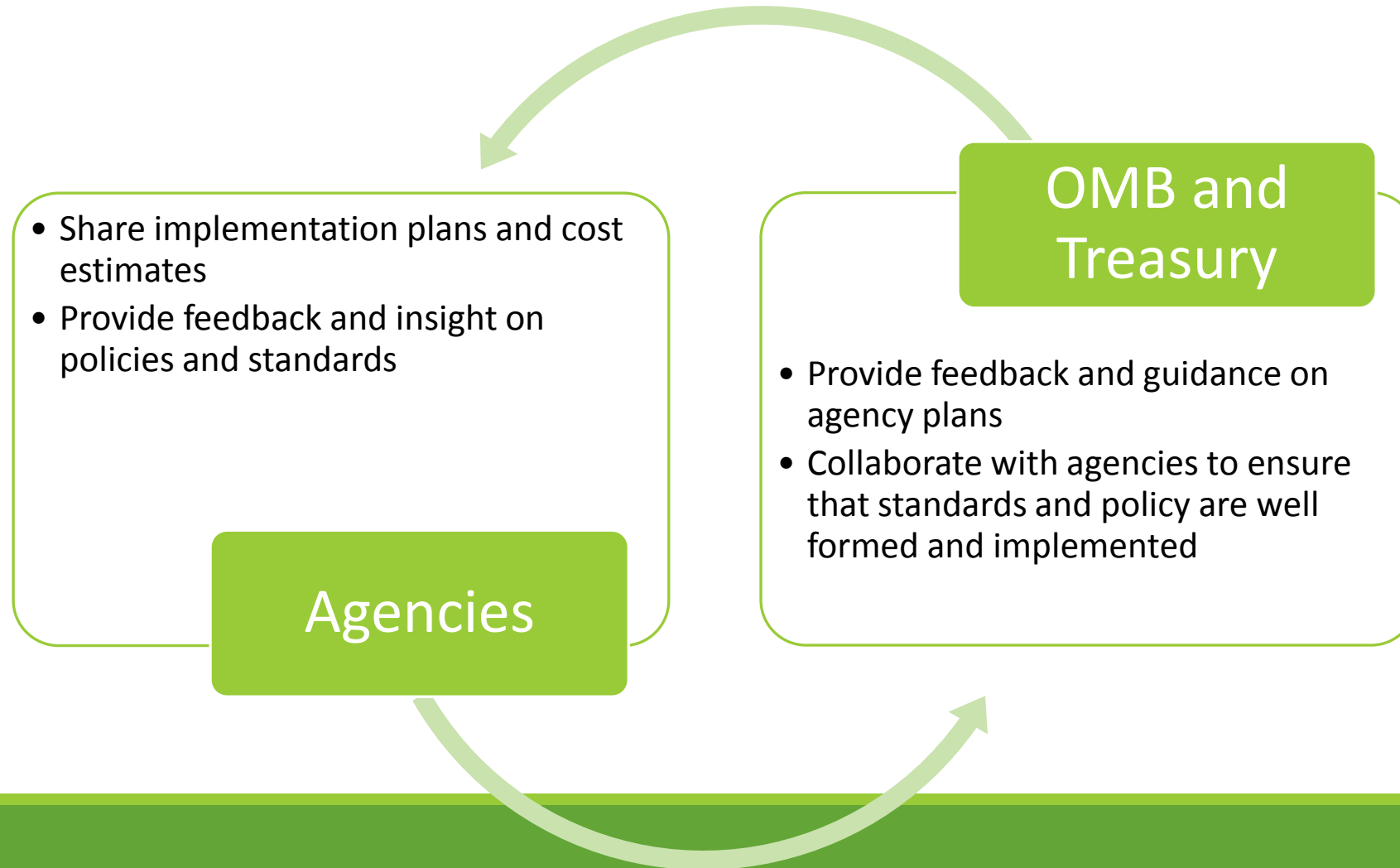
Map out necessary changes and associated costs

Strategize how changes can be made to meet timelines

Identify critical steps and potential challenges

# Moving forward: Collaboration with agencies

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# What's next for IGs

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Monitor development of standards and policy issued by OMB and Treasury

Stay aware of agency's implementation and how your agency is planning and preparing

Begin audit work sufficiently in advance of the November 2016 statutory deadline