



Building a Sustainable Circular Economy with the C3 Program

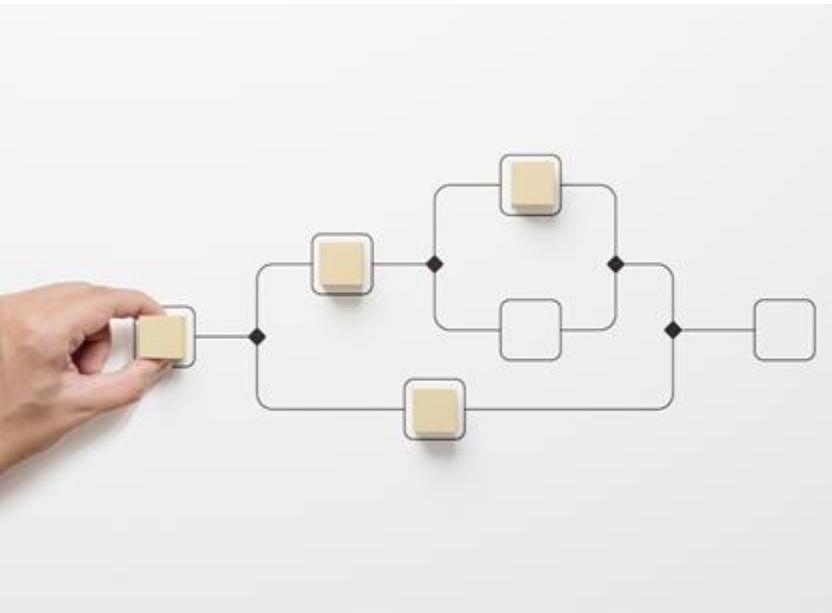
Presented by: Liz Kuhn, Kathleen Hynes



We don't just have a *waste* problem,
we have a *trust* problem.



It all starts with design.



Linear



Semi-Circular



Circular

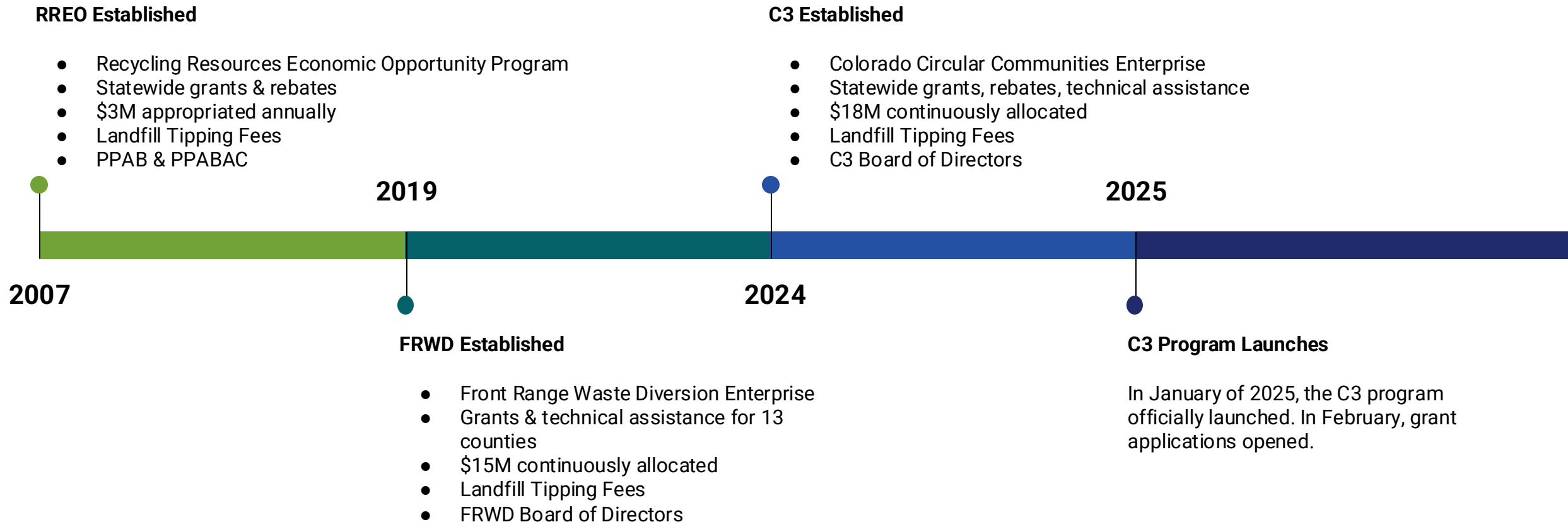




Raise your hand if...

Where Did C3 Come From?

Built on What Worked. Ready for What's Next.



Pause: Time to Rebuild



Listen

What was working?
What wasn't?
Where can we grow?



Rebuild

Design a program that
is inclusive, equitable,
and responsive to
Colorado's needs.



Reset

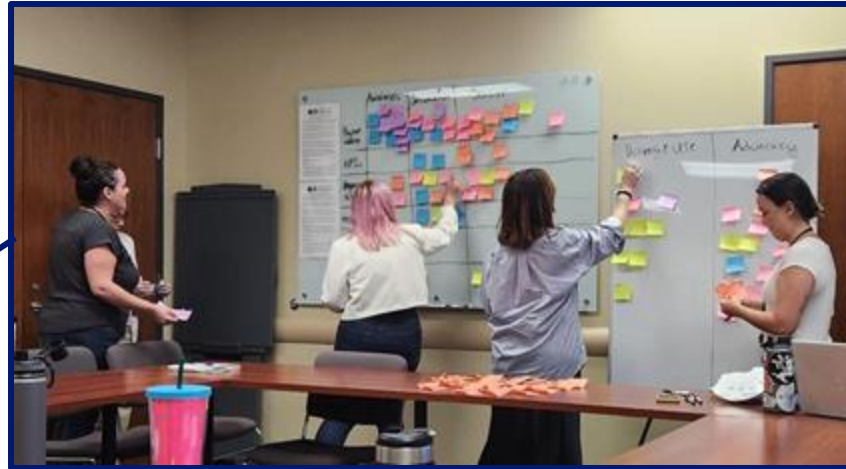
Reset the foundation
so that future work can
be more impactful.

The Team That Makes it Happen

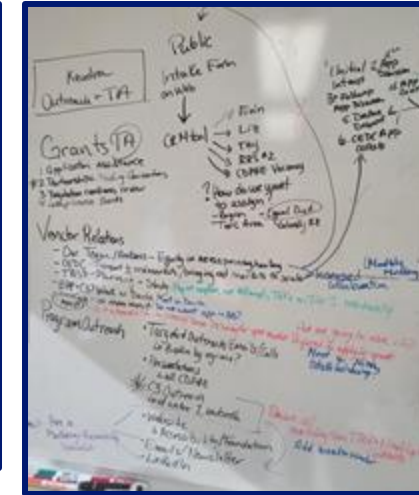


Strategic Planning: July - November 2024

“Customer”
Experience
Planning



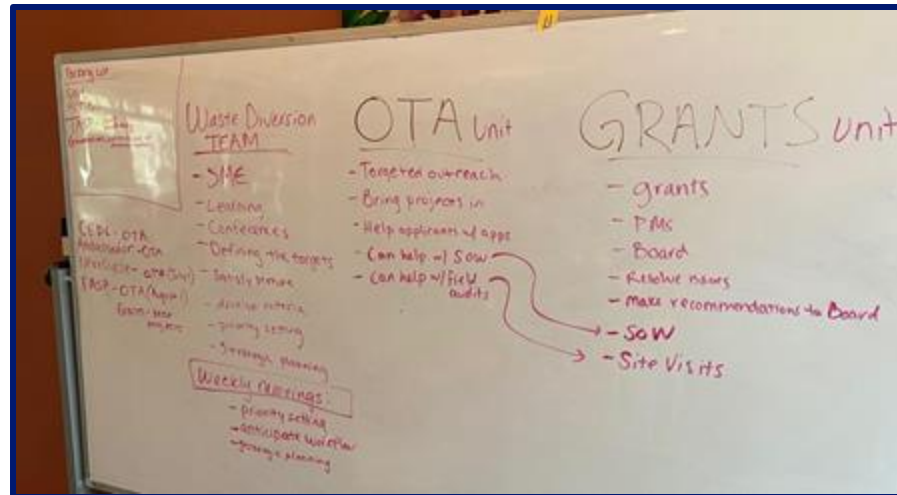
Outreach &
Technical
Assistance
planning



Brainstorming
goals & values



“Pipeline” & Team
Duties





Mission

To empower and support Colorado's communities, businesses, and organizations by providing technical assistance, grants, and funding opportunities for projects that advance circularity throughout the state



Vision

Every community thrives within a fully integrated circular economy - where waste is minimized, resources are continuously reused locally, and economic opportunities are enhanced through sustainable and equitable practices.



Values

- Sustainability
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Equity
- Protecting Public Health & Environment
- Operational Excellence

Strategic Goals



#1

Increase Participation in the State's Circular Economy

- Outreach & Technical Assistance
- Develop Confidence
- Increase Access

#2

Reduce Material Consumption

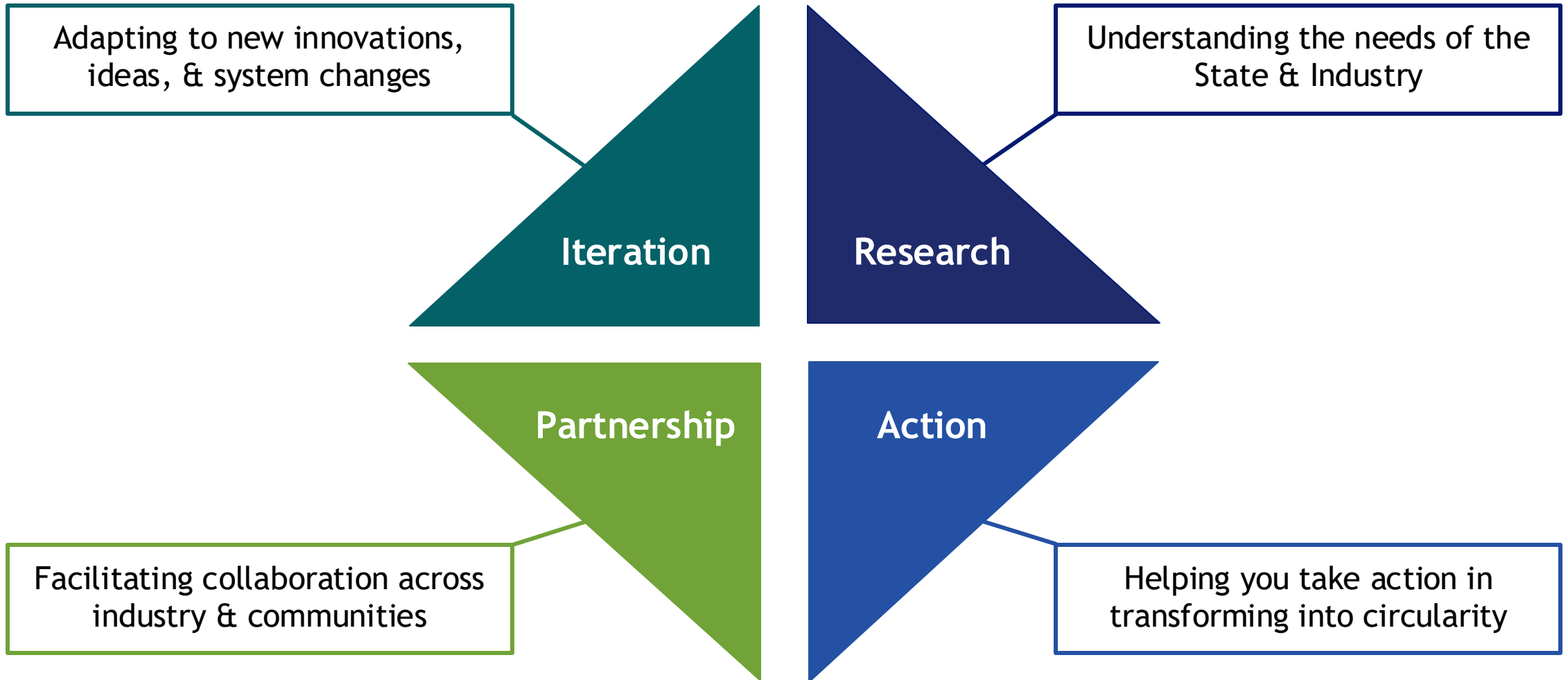
- Encourage Less Consumption
- Promote Reuse
- Support Sustainable Product Design

#3

Increase Material Capture for In-State Marketability

- Develop Regional Partnerships
- Decrease Material Contamination
- Increase Infrastructure

Thinking Differently





Whatever your path looks like, our team can guide you.





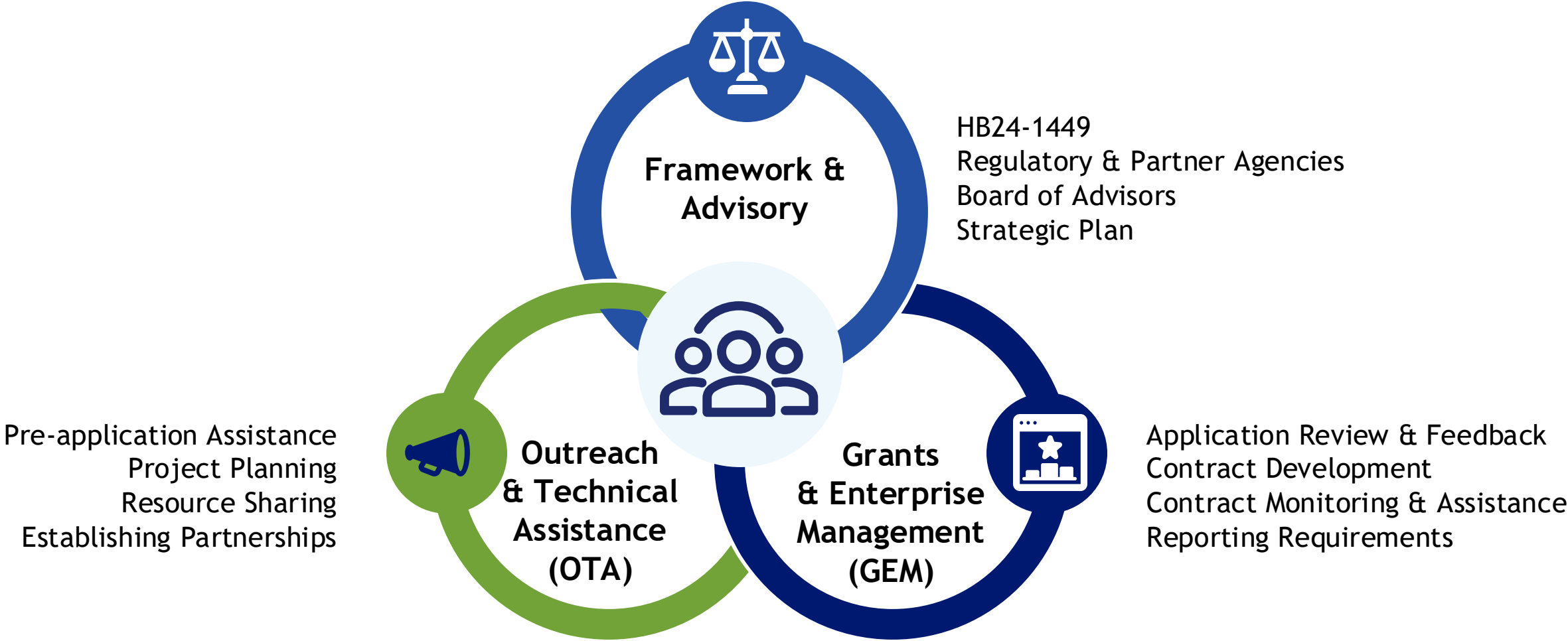
Enterprise Services

Accessing state-funded services to advance your community's circularity initiatives

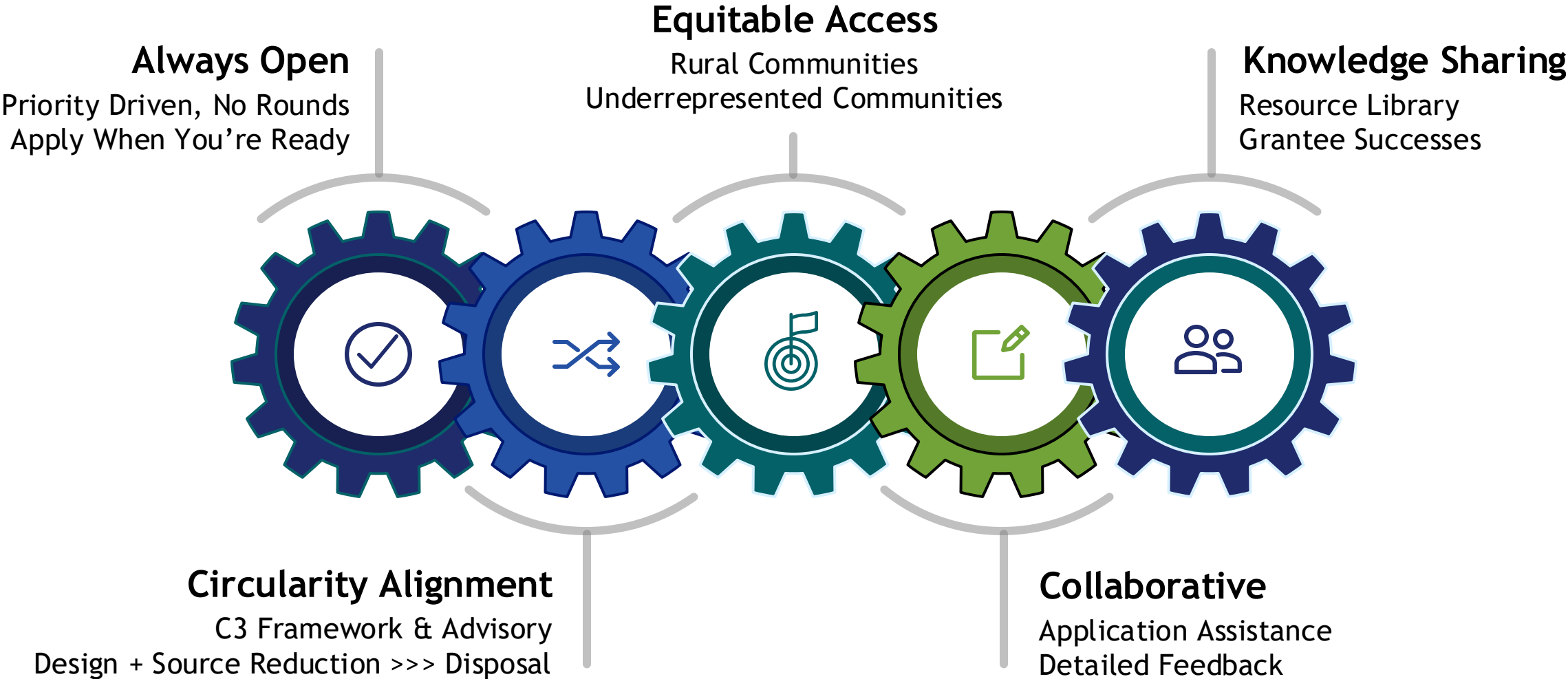
C3 Enterprise Services

- C3 Enterprise Model
- Program Principles
- Offerings to Advance Circularity
- Eligibility & Estimated Timelines
- Project Pipeline
- Keys to Success
- Glimpse into the C3 Applicant Experience

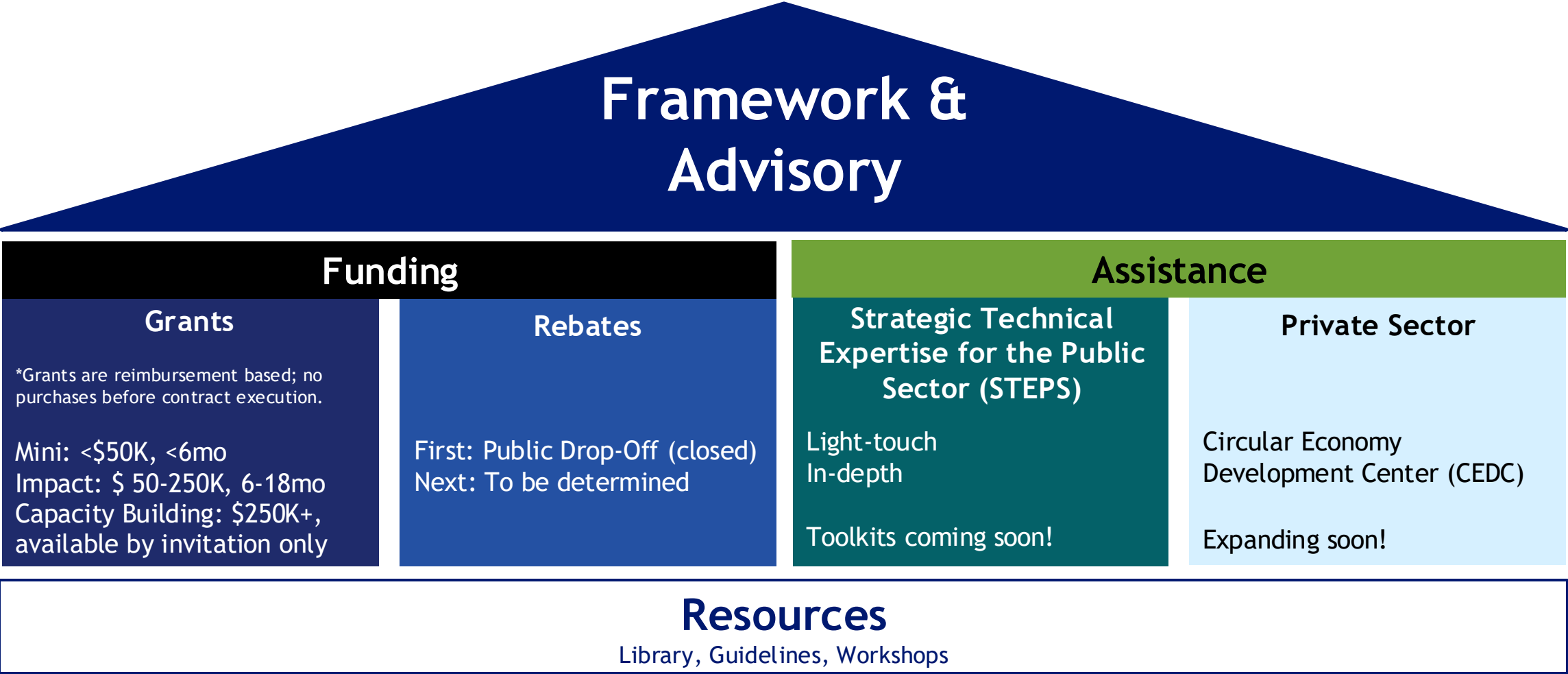
C3 Enterprise Model



Program Principles



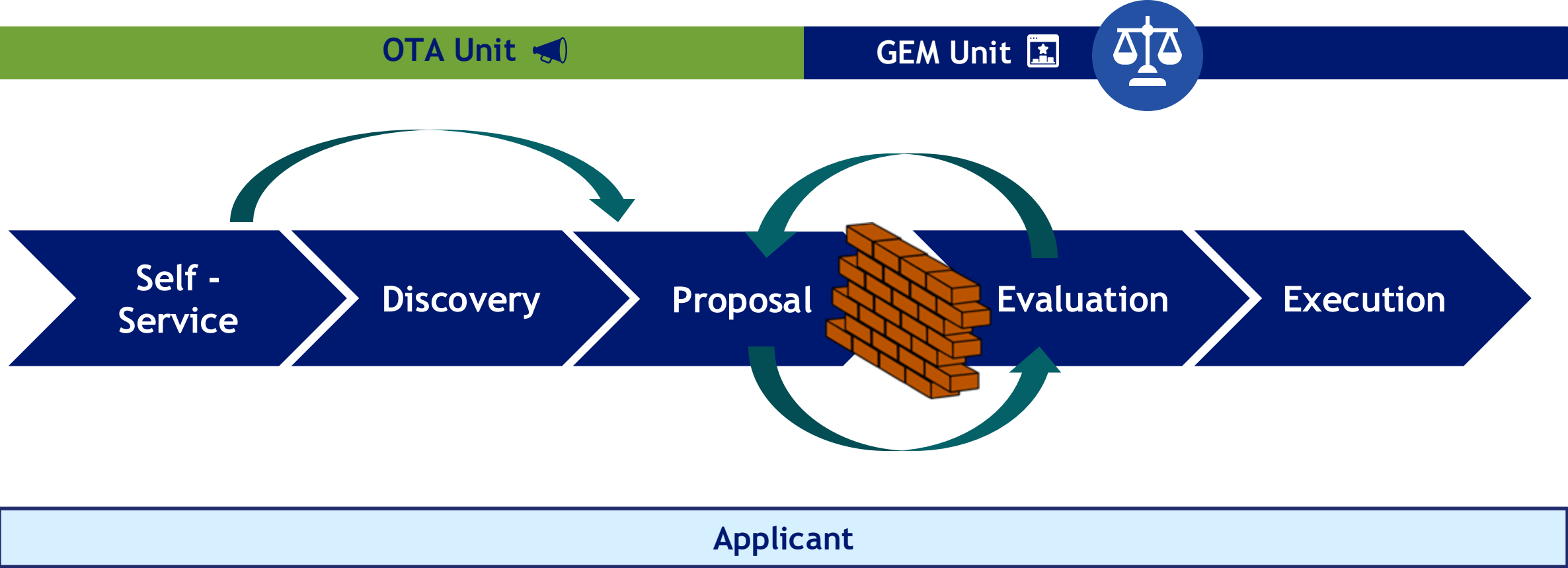
Offerings to Advance Circularity



Eligibility & Estimated Timelines

Offering	Application or Inquiry	Role of the C3 Board of Advisors	Est. Time Application/Inquiry to Contract Execution	Public Local Gov't, Tribes, Public K-12	Private Nonprofit, For-Profit, Higher Edu, Private Edu
Funding					
Mini Grants	Application	Approved Criteria	3 - 5+ months	✓	✓
Impact Grants	Application	Approve/Deny Recommendation	4 - 6+ months	✓	✓
Capacity Building Grants	Inquiry	Approve/Deny Recommendation	6 - 9+ months	✓	✓
Rebates	Application	Approved Criteria	Winter '25-26 for next rebate	★ Refer to Guidelines	★ Refer to Guidelines
Assistance					
STEPS Light-touch	Inquiry	Approved Criteria	2 - 3+ months	✓	
STEPS In-depth	Inquiry	Approve/Deny Recommendation	3 - 6+ months	✓	
CEDC	N/A	N/A	N/A	★ Refer to CEDC	★ Refer to CEDC
Resources					
Resource Library	N/A	N/A	Summer 2025	✓	✓
Workshops	N/A	N/A	Quarterly	✓	✓

Project Pipeline



Keys to Success

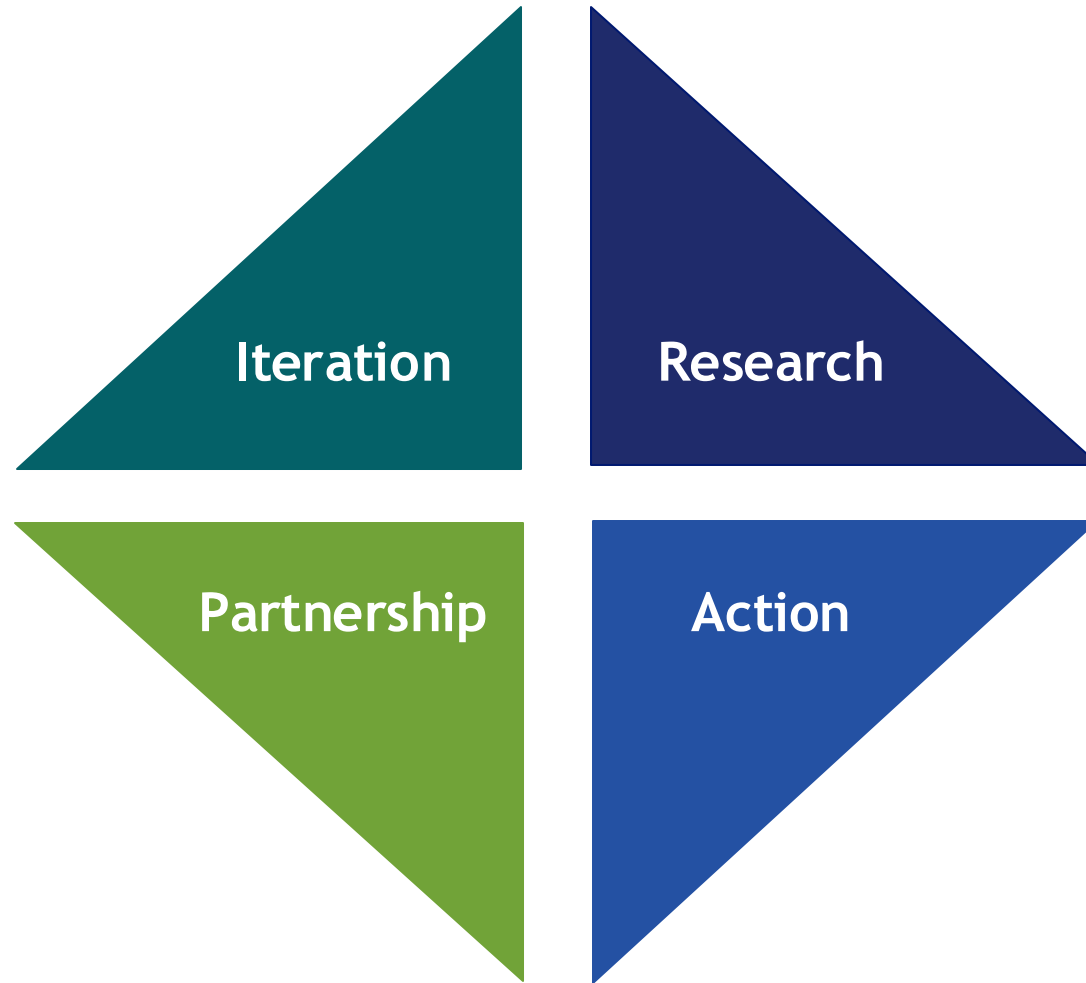
- Choose one project lead to manage the process
- Come prepared - review the strategic plan, guidelines, and resources prior to submitting
- Organize your supporting players and materials
- Consider opportunities for collaboration and partnership
- Stay focused and think Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound
- Be communicative, responsive, and respectful



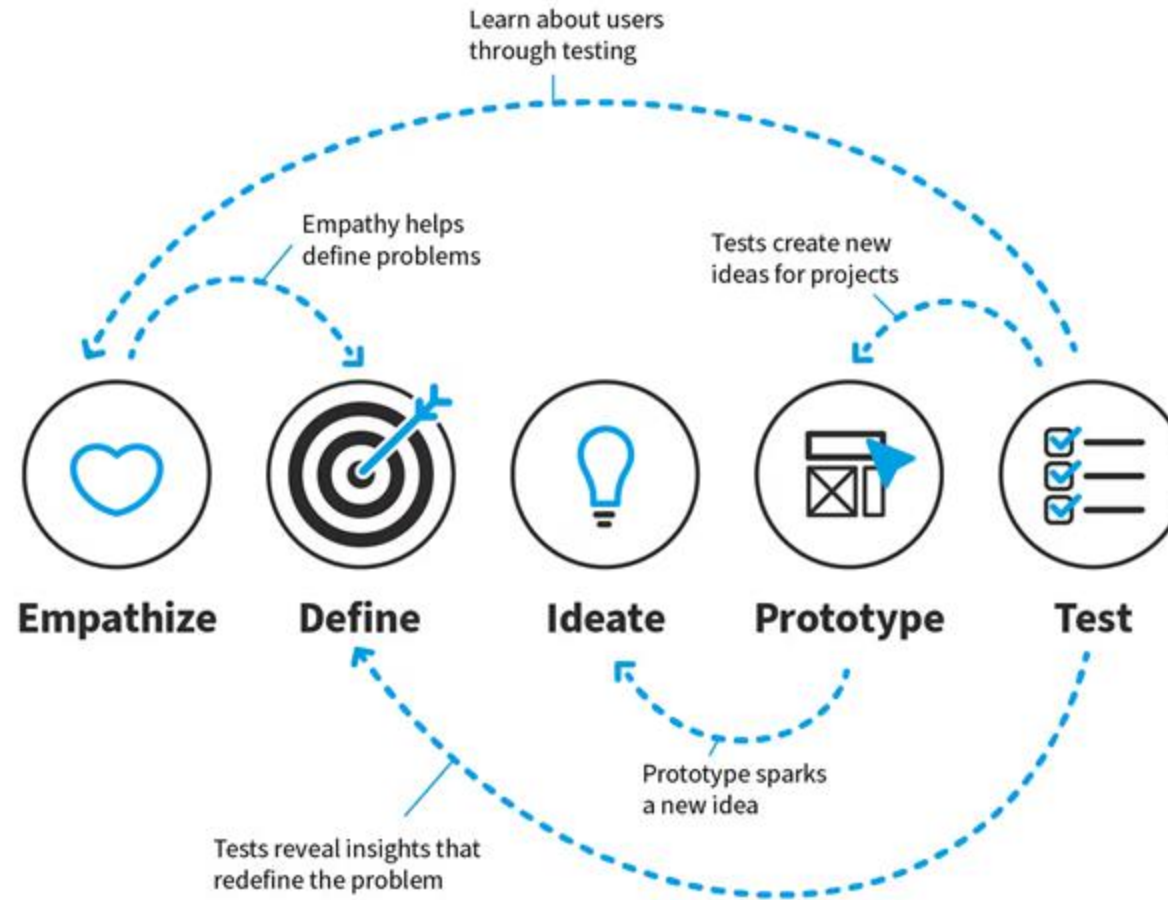
C3 Enterprise Services

- C3 Enterprise Model
- Program Principles
- Offerings to Advance Circularity
- Eligibility & Estimated Timelines
- Project Pipeline
- Keys to Success
- Glimpse into the C3 Applicant Experience

Thinking Differently



Design Thinking: a Non-Linear Process



Adams 12 Five Star Schools



- North Metro Denver - serves Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton, and Westminster
- 50+ schools
- 36,000+ students
- 4,400+ staff members
- 100+ languages spoken
- 41.6% of students are on free/reduced-price lunch program

Let's imagine...

Adams 12
Five Star Schools



"My team is a staff of one."

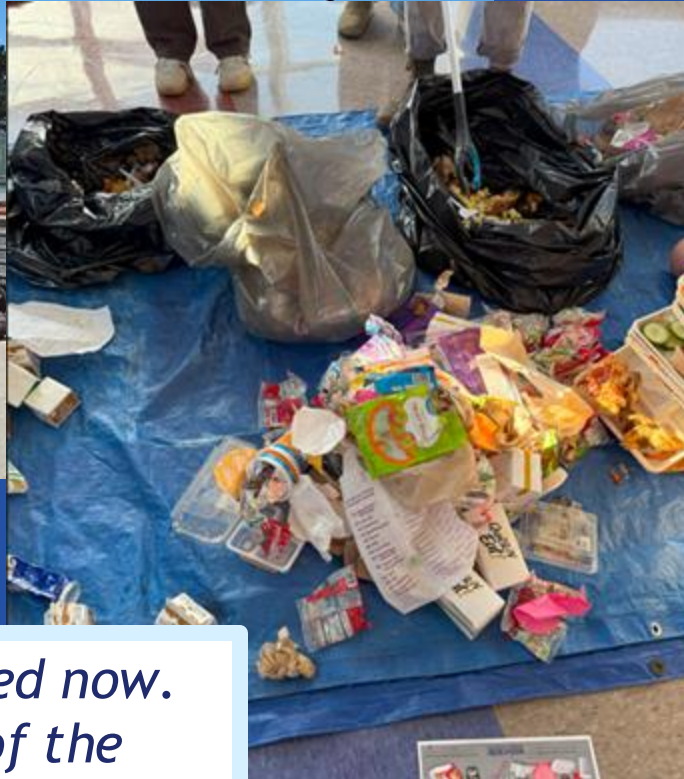


*"I'm not sure that our goals are still achievable...
COVID moved us backwards"*



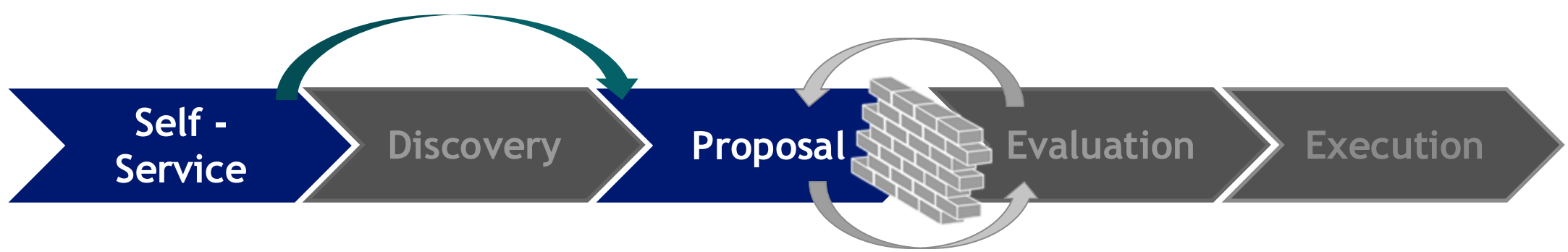
STEPS leads to the next...

“The amount of waste a school produces is overwhelming.”

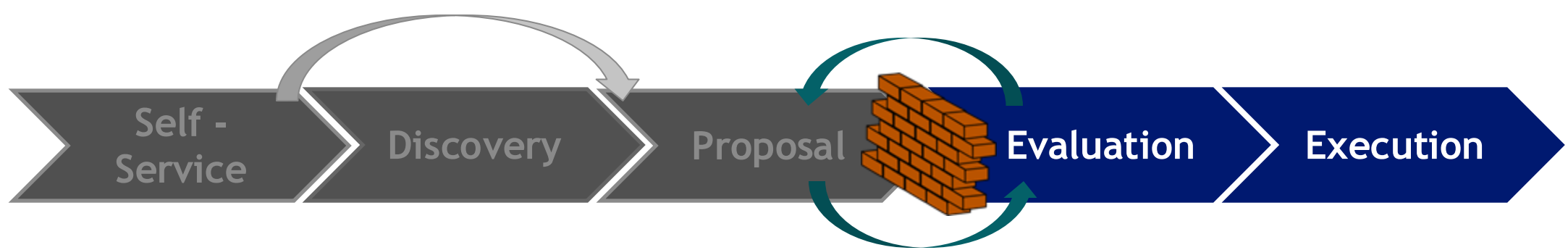


*“We know what we need now.
We only have some of the
resources required though.”*





 	
Mini Grant Funding Opportunity	
<i>Grant Guidelines</i>	
Link to Application	
Overview	2
Pre-Application	2
Eligible Applicants	2
Eligible Projects and Funding	2
Ineligible Expenses	2
Application	3
Application Requirements	3
Eligibility Quiz	3
Narrative	3
Timeline	4
Budget	4
Attachments required	4
Additional Information	4
Review	5
Evaluation Criteria	5
Project Narrative and Goals (0-3 points)	5
Needs Statement (0-7 points)	5
Sustainability (0-5 points)	5
Grant Instructions, Timeline, and Expectations	5



Mini Grant Funding Opportunity

This funding opportunity aims to award up to \$50,000 for multiple projects to eligible entities with a demonstrated short-term need, less than six (6) months. The application is available year round, on an ongoing basis.

1. Check this box to confirm you have watched the pre-application video.

All applicants are required to watch the pre-application video before submitting an application.



2. Check this box to acknowledge that you are prepared to make purchases upfront and wait for a reimbursement.

Funding will be awarded on a reimbursement basis. Purchases made before an executed agreement is in place will not be reimbursed.



3. Check this box to confirm that this project can be



State of Colorado Purchase Order Terms and Conditions

1. Offer/Acceptance. This Purchase Order, together with these terms and conditions (including, if applicable, Addendum 1: Additional Terms and Conditions for Information Technology, and Addendum 2: Additional Terms and Conditions for Federal Provisions, below), and any other attachments, exhibits, specifications, or appendices, whether attached or incorporated by reference (collectively the "PO") shall represent the entire and exclusive agreement between the State and the Vendor. If this PO refers to Vendor's bid or proposal, this PO is an ACCEPTANCE of Vendor's OFFER TO SELL in accordance with the terms and conditions of this PO. If a bid or proposal is not referenced, this PO is an OFFER TO BUY, subject to Vendor's acceptance, demonstrated by Vendor's performance or written acceptance of this PO. Any COUNTER-OFFER TO SELL automatically CANCELS this PO, unless a change order accepting the counter-offer is issued in accordance with §4 accepting a counter-offer. The State shall not be responsible or liable for goods or services delivered or performed prior to issuance of this PO.

2. Order of Precedence. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency within this PO, such conflict or inconsistency shall be resolved by giving preference to the documents in the following order of priority: (a) If applicable, Addendum 2: Additional Terms and Conditions for Federal Provisions, below; (b) the Purchase Order document; (c) these Terms and Conditions (including, if applicable, Addendum 1: Additional Terms and Conditions for Information Technology below); and (d) any attachments, exhibits, specifications, or appendices, whether attached or incorporated by reference. Any terms and conditions included on Vendor's forms or invoices not included in this PO are void.

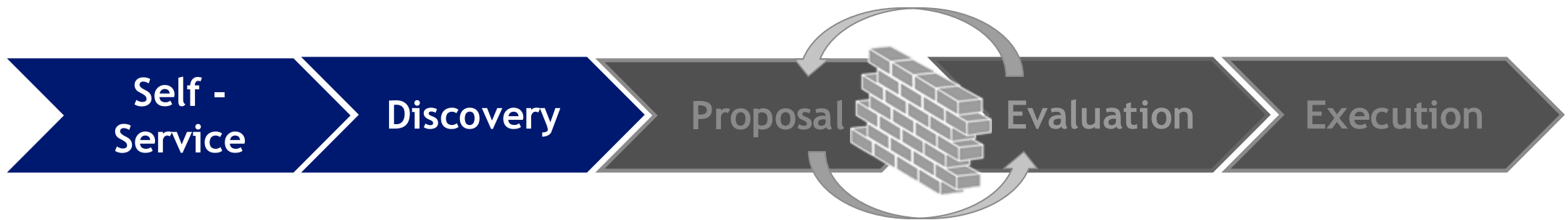
3. Safety Information. All chemicals, equipment, and materials proposed or used in the performance of this PO shall conform to the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Vendor shall furnish all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any regulated chemicals, equipment, or hazardous materials at the time of delivery.

One year later...



“We’re ready to build partnerships and expand our impact.”





Request Technical Assistance

Submit a technical assistance inquiry to request support for project ideas related to a Capacity Building Grant or the STEPS program. For these projects, submitting an inquiry is required.

For project ideas related to Mini and Impact Grants, applications are always open and requests are supported for application technical assistance only. For these projects, requests, or lack thereof, will not influence funding approval.

[Submit an Inquiry](#)



Inquiry Request Form

Use this form to request support from the C3 Outreach & Technical Assistance team regarding your community's circularity project. The inquiry form should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Required questions are indicated with an asterisk (*) and additional questions will appear as you complete the form.

Primary Contact *

Provide the primary contact's first and last name

Stacy Lambright

Pronouns

she/her

Job Title *

Energy & Sustainability Manager



Sources: Where the Money Comes From - General Fund

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund is comprised mostly from state and local tax revenue and a little from federal.



Expenditures: Where the Money Goes - All Funds

Separate funds ensure dollars are tracked and used for intended purposes

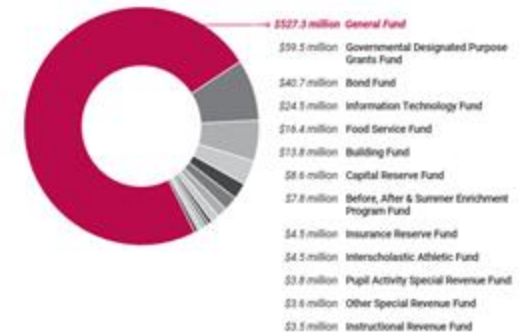
Adams 12 Five Star Schools has 13 different funds. The General Fund is our main operating fund and accounts for the majority, or about 73.4 percent, of expenditures.

Governmental resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The operating objectives of governmental entities, such as school districts, are different from those of commercial enterprises and therefore accounting requirements are different. Governmental entities use fund accounting to track revenues and expenditures. This is particularly important because some funds have very specific restrictions on how dollars can be spent.

Adopted Budgeted Expenditures by Fund

Fiscal Year 2024-2025



Formula for providing equitable education

Children in the state receive an equitable educational experience, used to determine a per-pupil funding level for each school district.

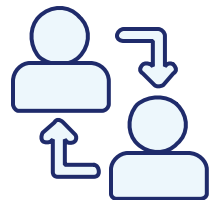
which is the same for all school districts, plus additional amounts for financial differences among districts, such as cost-of-living, warmer costs. Starting in 2006, in order to make across-the-board "budget stabilization" to the School Finance Act formula. In 2021, include students eligible for reduced-price lunch under the federal the English language learner (ELL) student. A new factor for ELL, in the district factor. The statewide base can change from year to year and other factors. The statewide base is determined for each year before the conclusion of the legislative session each May. For funding amount is \$8,496.

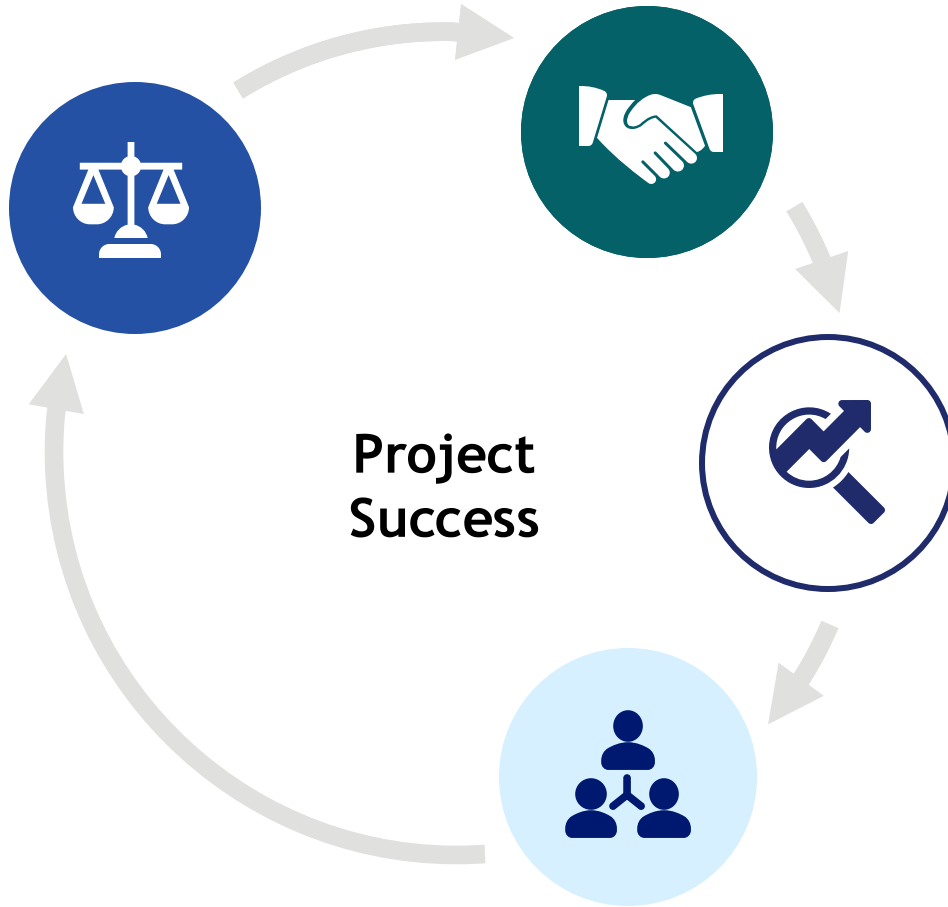
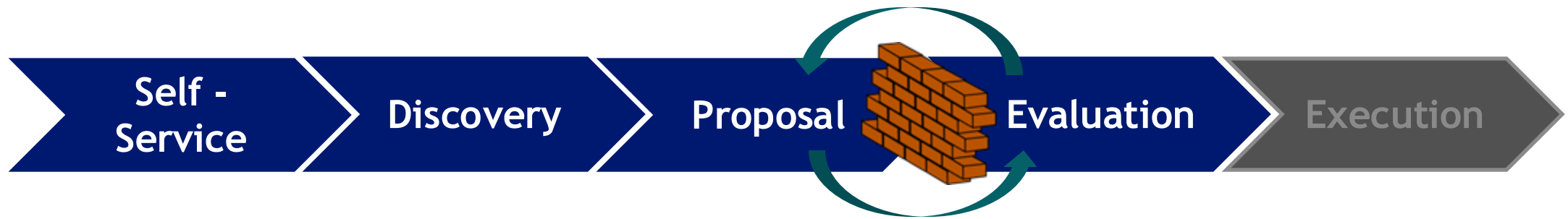
Funding Formula



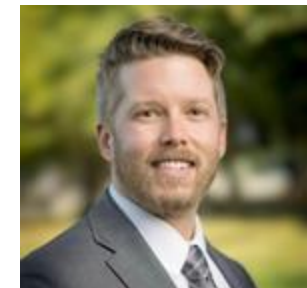
Sources: Base property taxes, local share of specific ownership, the state's portion of the Total Program Funding.

from property taxes increases and the state therefore contributes





- ➔ **Framework & Advisory**
board approved criteria, regulatory requirements, strategic plan
- ➔ **Circularity Alignment**
goals, circular economy impact, waste management hierarchy, alignment to strategic plan
- ➔ **Feasibility**
planning & readiness, budget, financials, staff/experience, community support and partnerships
- ➔ **Outcomes**
organizational needs, public benefit (people, economics), long-term analysis/sustainability of project





01	Verification	Monitor verifies W9, regulatory requirements Monitor provides award letter to Grantee
02	Develop Statement of Work (SOW)	Grantee accepts the award letter Monitor writes a Statement of Work - this is a contractual agreement with C3 Both parties sign to execute contract
03	Deliverables & Reimbursement	Monitor kicks off the project/contract to reaffirm expectations As Grantee completes deliverables, reimbursements are processed by their Monitor until all contracted deliverables are met
04	Project Close Out	Grantee completes a final report Monitor completes field audit C3 team shares Grantee successes

Focused on Outcomes





How might we...?

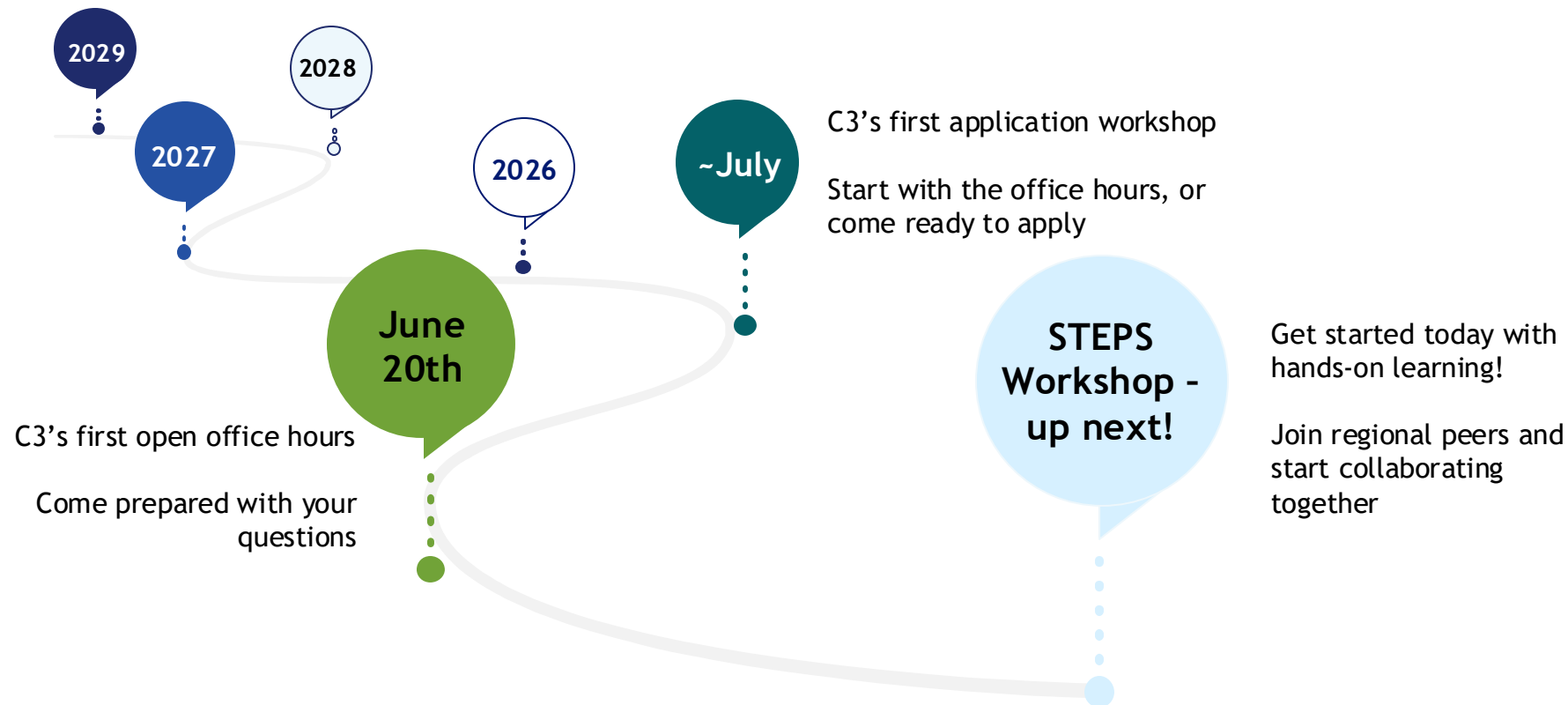




With all of you



Start Building Today



Sign up for our newsletter to stay engaged!

Thank You!



Resources

- **Articles in Slide 2:**

- [A Lot of the Stuff We Throw in Those Recycling Bins Is Really Just Trash](#)
- [Debating what it takes to make people trust recycling again](#)
- [Woman Drops AirTag in Recycling to See if Plastics Are Actually Recycled](#)
- [Think that your plastic is being recycled? Think again.](#)
- [The rocky road to recycled: Where do bottles, cans and cardboard really go?](#)
- [Why only a tiny fraction of your plastic actually gets recycled](#)
- [Is Your Water Bottle Really Made From Recycled Plastic?](#)
- [Does Your Recycling Actually Get Recycled? Yes. Maybe. It Depends.](#)
- [We used Apple AirTags to track our recycling. Here's where they ended up.](#)
- [Recycling in the U.S. Is Broken. How Do We Fix It?](#)
- [We followed your curbside recycling with GPS trackers, drones and undercover cameras. Here's where it ended up](#)

Resources

Imagery and statistics in a “Glimpse into the C3 Applicant Experience” Slides:

- https://www.facebook.com/adams12fivestarschools/photos/when-schools-invest-in-nutrition-services-students-reap-the-benefits-as-we-begin/1128976605941388/?_rdr (slide 26)
- [https://www.adams12.org/uploaded/AD12_Equity_Review_Final_Report_by_APG_2022-04-20_body_and_attachments_\(1\).pdf](https://www.adams12.org/uploaded/AD12_Equity_Review_Final_Report_by_APG_2022-04-20_body_and_attachments_(1).pdf) (slide 25)
- <https://www.metrodenver.org/media/443339/map-metro.pdf> (slide 26)
- Douglas County School District - images of educational composting activities (slide 30, 36)
- <https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/topics/design-thinking> (slide 24)
- <https://www.ourtownreno.com/our-citizens-forum/2024/5/25/a-local-push-to-make-our-school-lunches-healthier-and-less-wasteful> (slide 26)
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools & tacy Swan Lambright - headshot, images from waste audit, video in lunchroom, Adams 12 logo (slide 26, 27)
- https://indd.adobe.com/view/publication/fad60dcf-ebd2-4609-a8bc-b6386b830a9b/mbpv/publication-web-resources/pdf/2024_NavigatingBudget_ENG.pdf (slide 31)
- https://www.cohealthmaps.dphe.state.co.us/COEnviroscreen_2/ (slide 32)
- <https://www.denverpost.com/2013/04/28/more-colorado-high-schools-cooking-up-recipe-for-culinary-success/> (slide 36)