



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Using Data to Advocate for Your Court

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About Us



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Agenda

After completing this session, you will be able to:

- Recall how data can be used to tell your story
- Find helpful data to support your requests
- Use data to support requests for sustained or new resources
- Recall characteristics of effective grant proposals



Court Advocacy (Previously scheduled programming)

- Using the “Elevator Pitch” to introduce yourself
- A “short story” to communicate:
 - Who are you? What do you do? What are your goals? Who do you serve and why? What have you achieved? What would you do with additional resources?



So now you've got that meeting...

How do you use data to tell your story?



Presenting
data



In a
contextual
narrative



To a targeted
audience



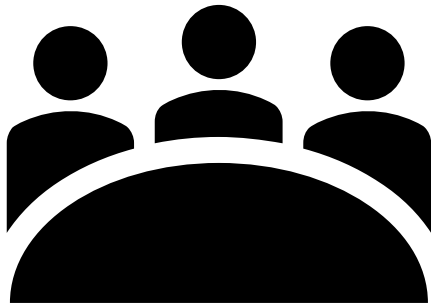
What is data storytelling?

Data = **what**

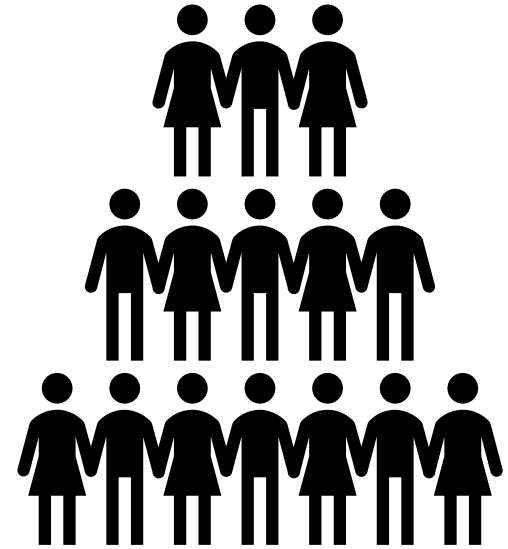
Story = **why** and **how**



Step One: Know your Audience and Purpose

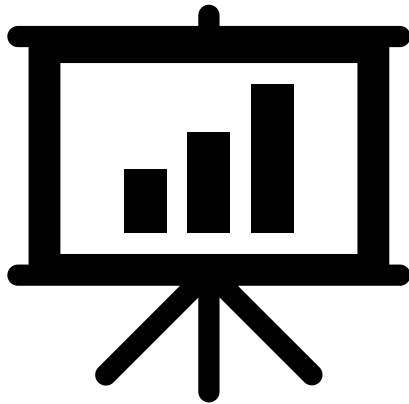


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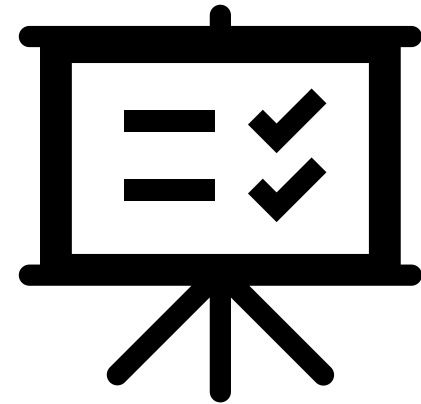


Step One:

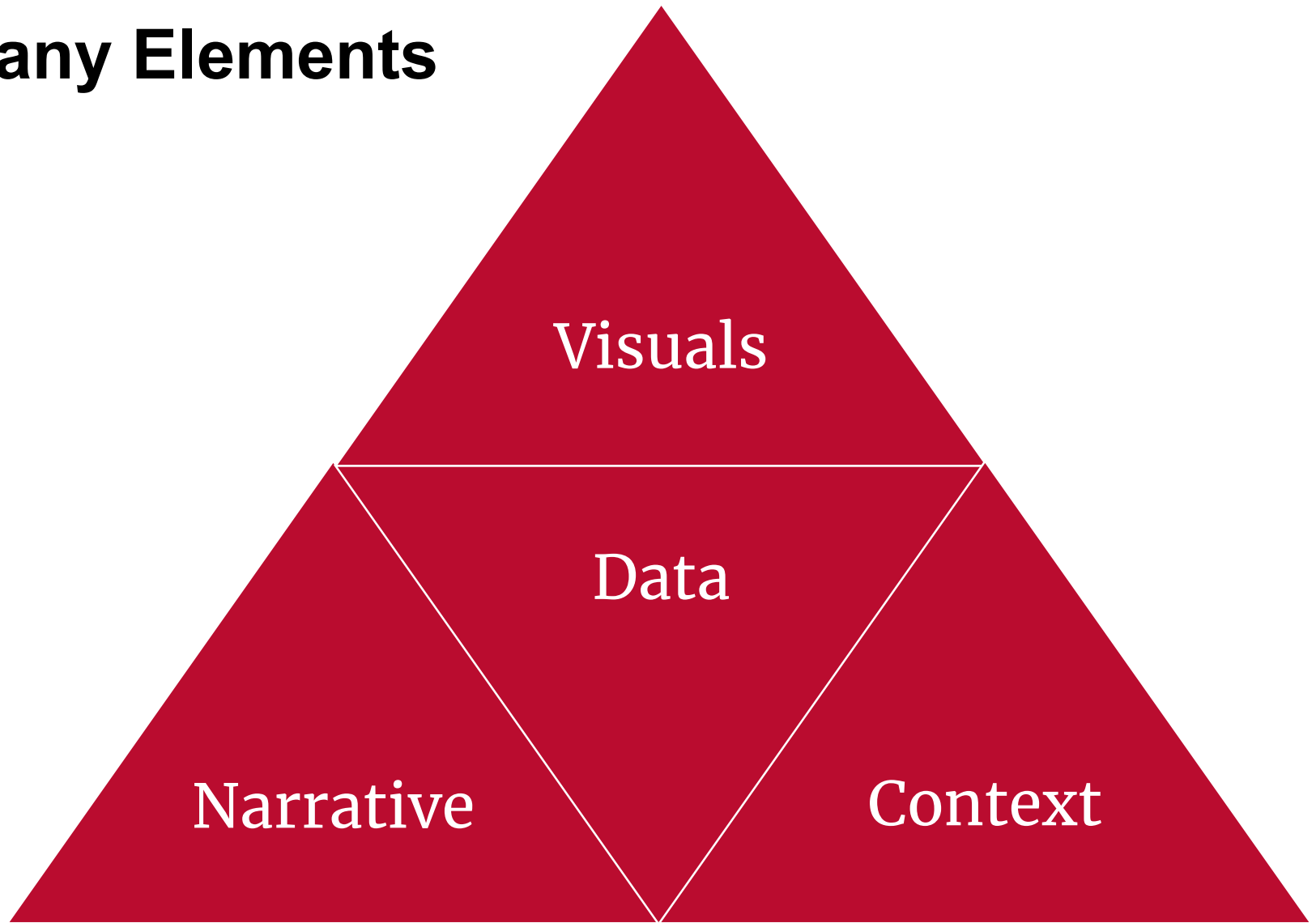
Know your Audience and Purpose



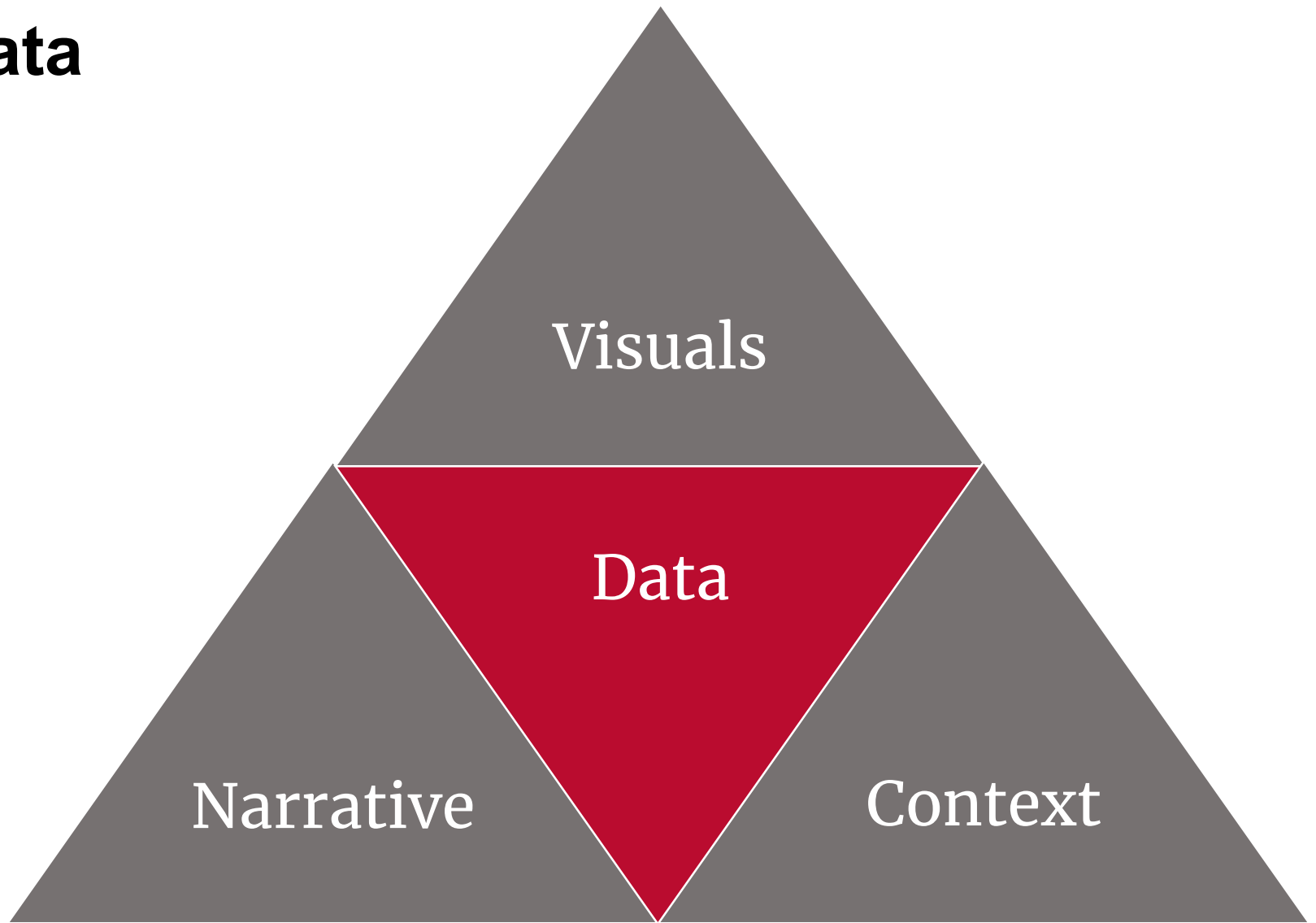
or



Many Elements



Data



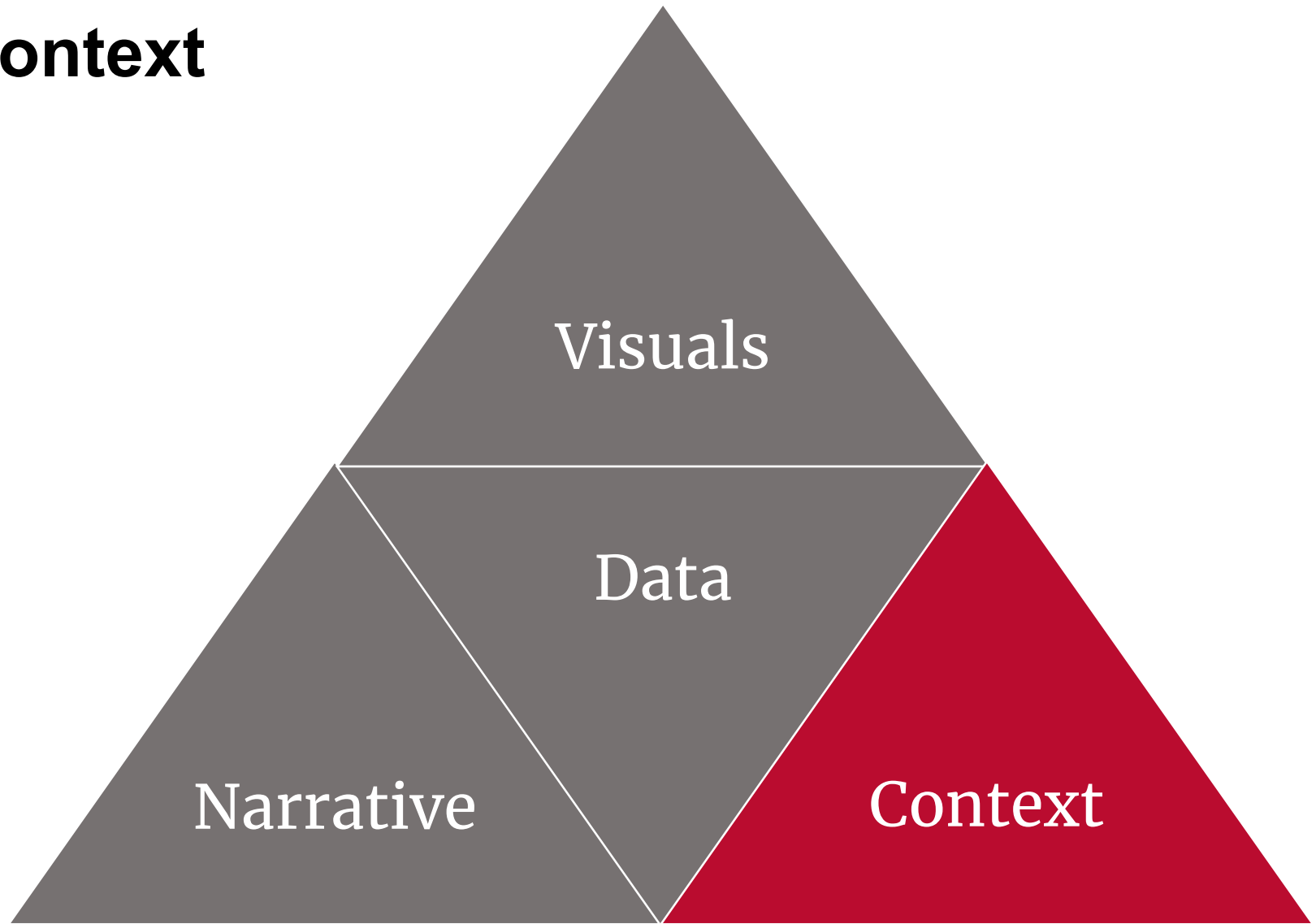
Understanding Your Data

Prior to doing any storytelling or analysis, it is critical to understand your data and its limitations

- How was the information collected?
- What is the source?
- What is missing from the data?



Context

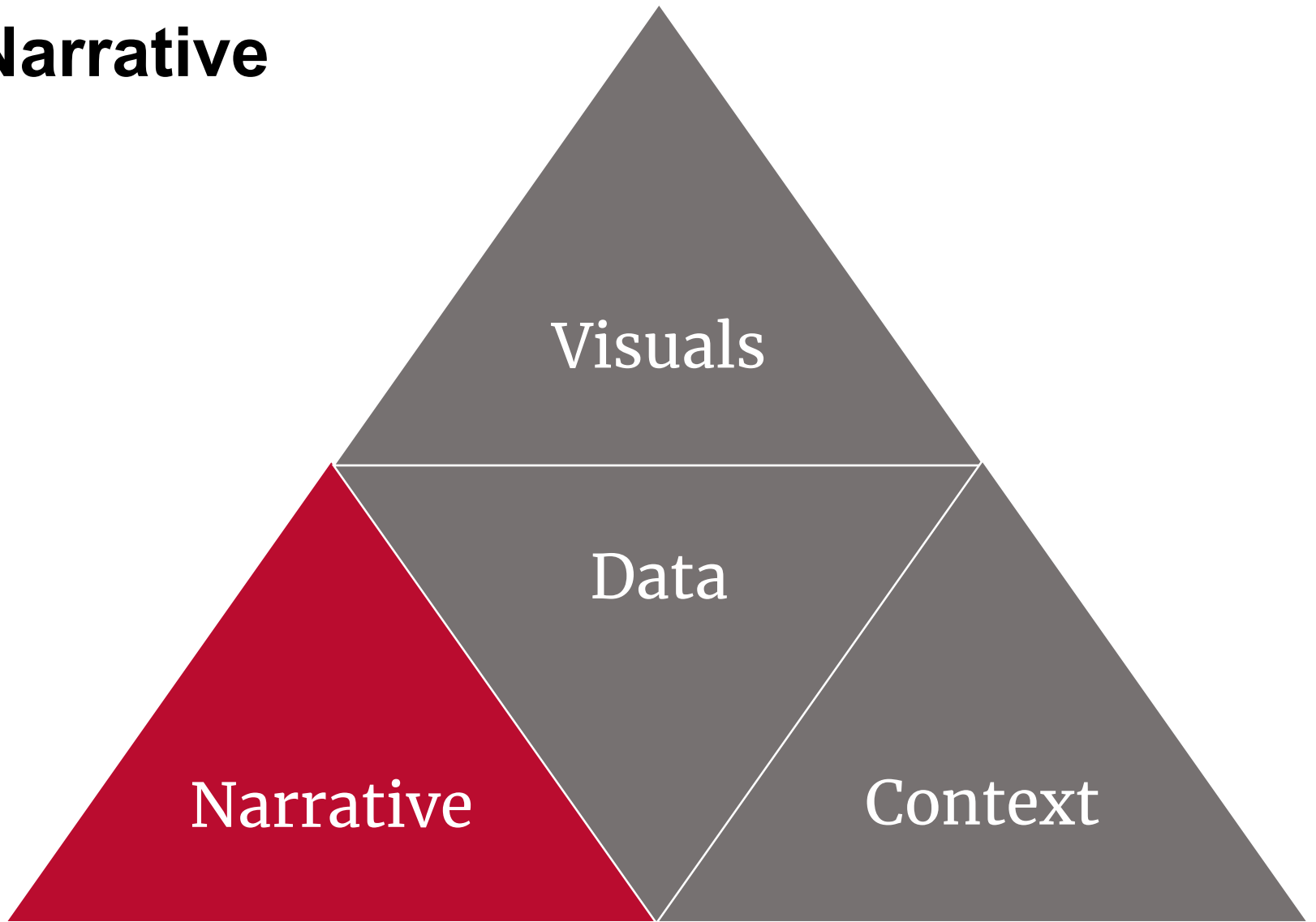


Context

- Where are you giving the presentation and what is the purpose?
- What do you want the audience to learn from the presentation?
- What's in it for me?
 - Think about the decision maker, their motivations and their decision environment.



Narrative



Narrative

Theme/ Purpose (Why)	What is the story about?
-------------------------	--------------------------

Setting (Where and When)	Time and location
-----------------------------	-------------------

Characters (Who)	Protagonist- central character with clear goal or conflict
	Antagonist – opposition or conflict. Can be a person, place or thing

Plot (How)	Sequence of events
------------	--------------------

Conflict (What)	What needs to be overcome?
	What is at stake and why does it matter?



Data Story Arc

Decision
Point

What needs to
change?

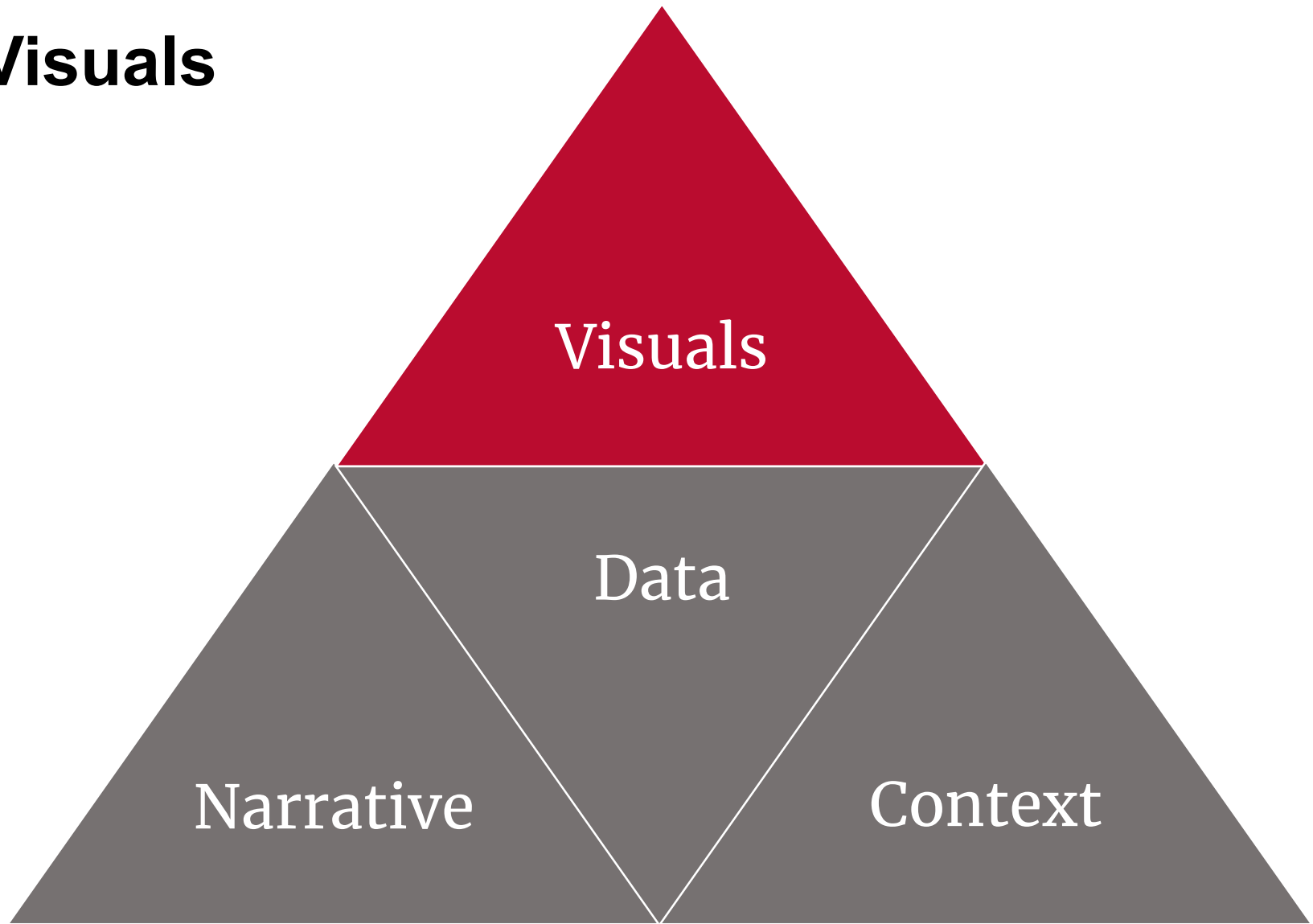
The problem
has a
measurable
solution

What is the problem?

The new normal, or
status quo can
begin again



Visuals



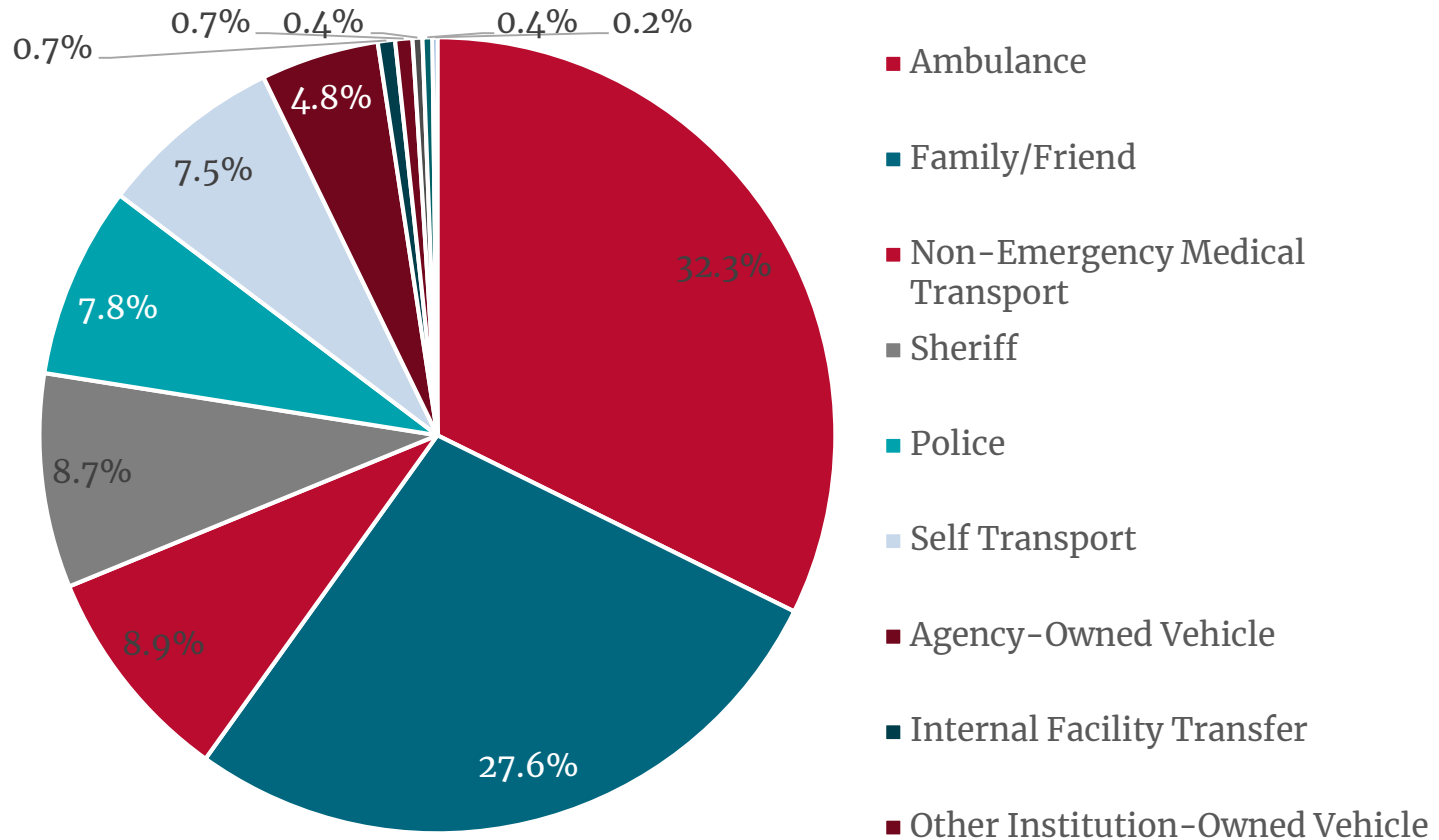
Visuals

Use focused visualizations

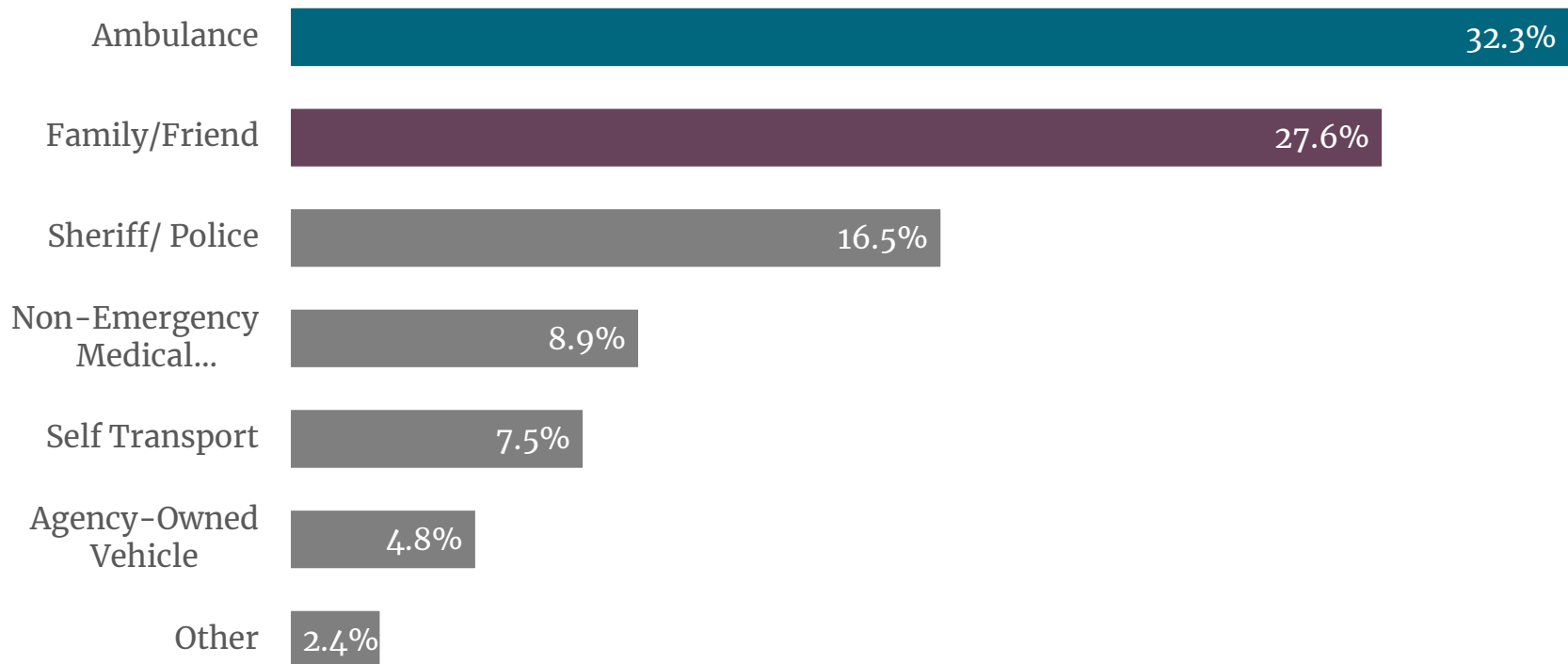
- Complex visuals will confuse the audience and distract them from the point of the presentation
- Remove clutter, like unnecessary text and labels



Method of Transport



Method of Transport



Finding Useful Data



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNCIL OF ACCOUNTABILITY COURT JUDGES



PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

RECIDIVISM

Applied Research Services, Inc. has conducted two recidivism studies of accountability court participants in Georgia.

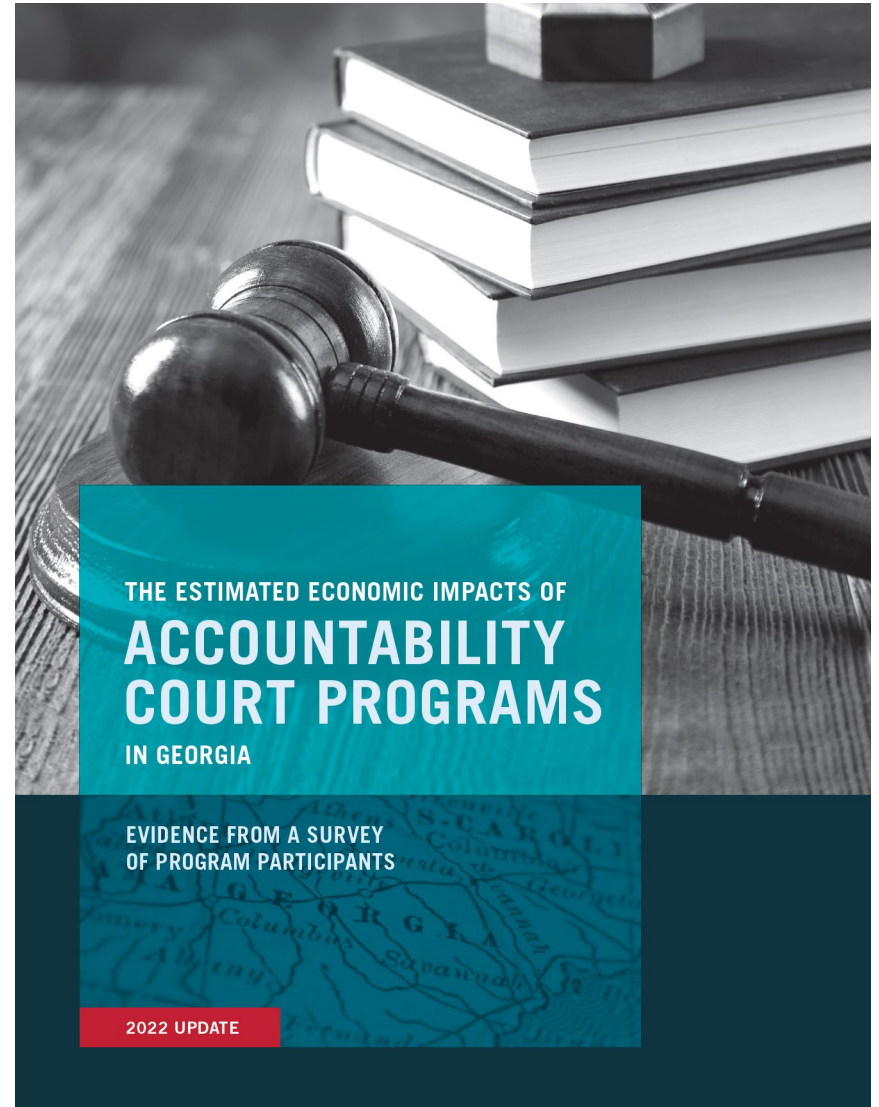
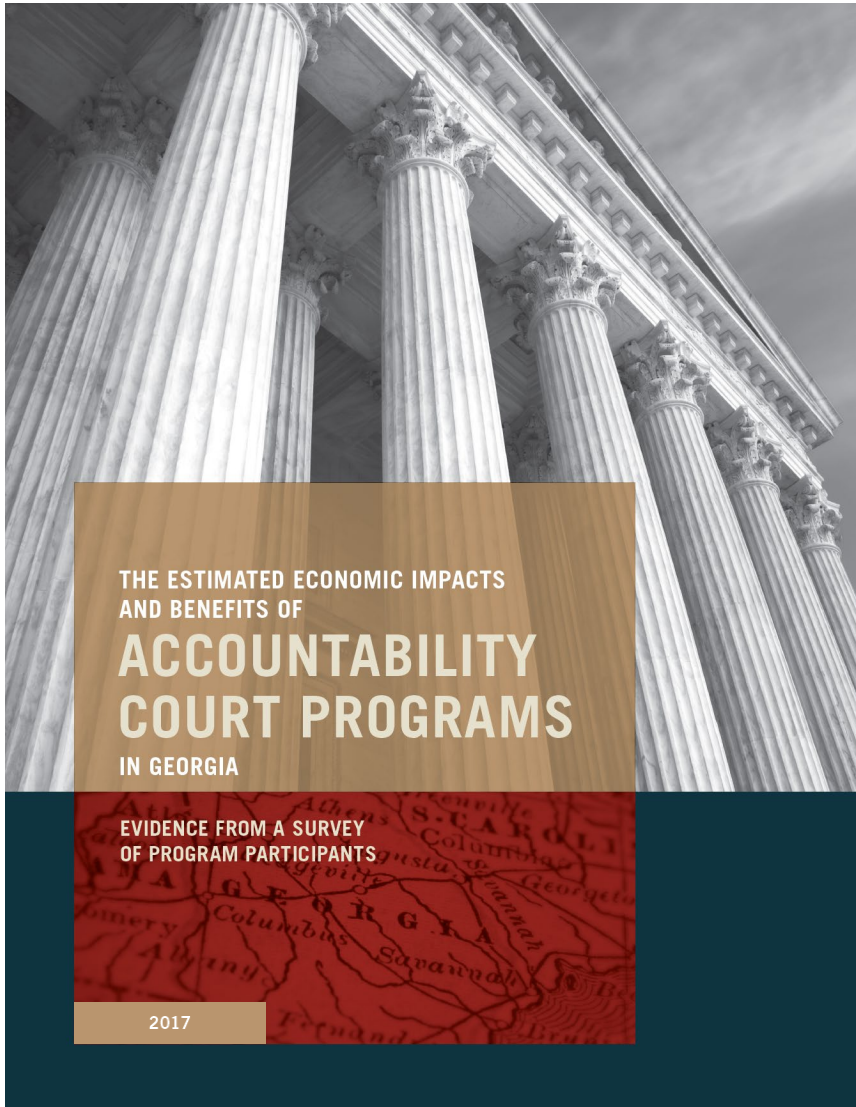
Study #1 compared accountability court graduates to those terminated from such programs.

Study #2 compared accountability court participants (whether or not they graduated) to probationers in adjacent counties who did not enter an accountability court program.

Court Type	Study #1		Study #2	
	Graduated	Terminated	Participants	Non-Participants
Drug	27%	74%	44%	54%
Mental Health	32%	72%	35%	49%
Veterans Treatment	19%	54%	29%	46%
DUI	21%	63%	22%	39%
Family Treatment	12%	84%	N/A	N/A

- Participants who graduate from an accountability court program do far better than terminated participants after being discharged from a program.
- Recidivism rates of offenders that have some participation in an accountability court program are lower compared to similarly situated offenders who did not participate in a program.
- Any amount of participation in an accountability court, regardless of completion, leads to lower recidivism.





Accountability Court Participant Savings

	2017	2022
Program graduates	1,729	1,592
Program fees collected from participants who graduated	\$3,300,000	\$1,700,000
Health care costs to the state avoided	\$8,100,000	\$1,700,000
Recidivism costs avoided	\$11,600,000	\$13,400,000
Foster care system costs avoided	\$3,900,000	\$3,100,000
Value of community service work	\$2,000,000	\$1,200,000
State income taxes paid	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000
Adjudication and incarceration savings	\$8,100,000	\$18,700,000
Total Economic Benefits	\$38,200,000	\$41,300,000
Average per Graduate	\$22,129	\$25,921

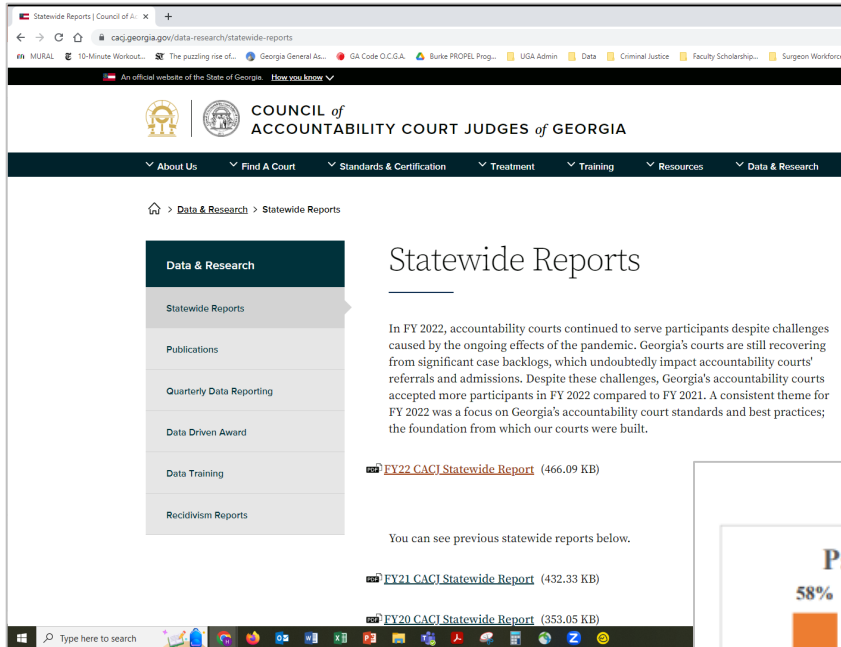


Accountability Court Program vs. Traditional Adjudication Costs

	Traditional Adjudication	Accountability Court Program
Pre-sentencing/Pre-diversion	\$6,364	\$6,364
1 year of incarceration (GDC prison)	\$24,090	NA
1 year of probation (DCS)	\$711	NA
Accountability court program (2 years)	NA	\$13,057
Total	\$31,165	\$19,421
Difference		-\$11,744



CACJ Statewide Reports



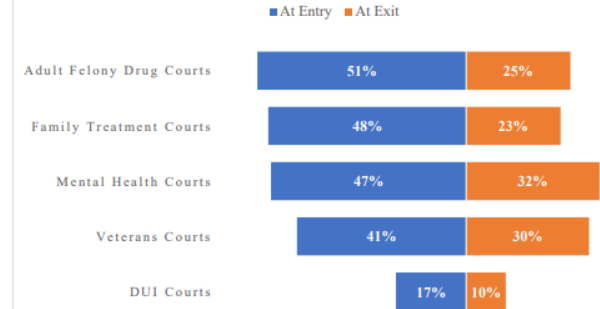
Treatment Promotes Employment

Employment at graduation is a key objective of program participation and a data element that is statutorily mandated for reporting.

Participants who exited an accountability court program in FY 2022 were **more likely to be employed** than when they entered the program.

Eighty-six percent of adult participants who exited an accountability court program in FY 2022 were employed, and **91% of graduates were employed.**

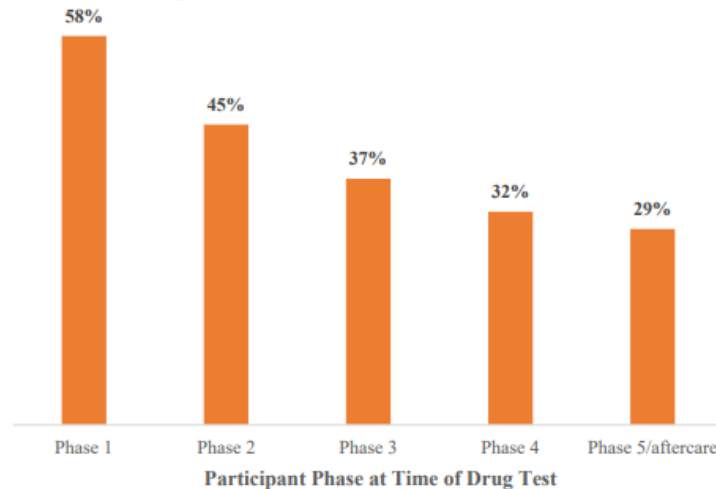
Unemployment at Entry vs Exit



73% of the eligible⁷ participants are employed
56% work full-time

Drug Testing Promotes Sobriety

Participants With a Positive Test in FY 2022



393,730

Total Drug Tests Administered

25,399

Positive³ Drug Tests

92%

Negative Test Rate⁴



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PAD Data Study

How much did Fulton County save because of diversions to PAD of people who would have otherwise been booked at Fulton County Jail?

120 people diverted x \$78 per person per day x 56 days each (average length of stay) = \$524,160

How much did Fulton County spend by detaining people at the Fulton County Jail who could have been diverted to PAD?

658 booked for PAD target charges \$78 per person per day x 56 days each (average length of stay) = \$2,871,144



The Cost of RECIDIVISM

ESTIMATES FOR 41 STATES THAT REPORTED DATA

State	Cost of Recidivism (Dollars in 2021)
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Arizona	226,345,172
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Arkansas	175,858,040
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California	1,924,810,316
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Colorado ⁱⁱ	150,436,575
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Delaware ⁱⁱⁱ	17,580,794
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Florida	313,267,794
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Georgia	201,117,694
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Hawaii	56,106,340
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Idaho	94,109,337
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Illinois [*]	159,012,177
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Indiana	122,065,870
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Iowa	103,857,914
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Kansas	89,737,440
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Louisiana	231,943,283
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Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

APRIL 2023

The Cost of RECIDIVISM

The high price states pay to incarcerate people for supervision violations



THE BOTTOM LINE

In 2021 alone, 41 states collectively spent well over

\$8 Billion

to incarcerate more than

193,000

people for supervision violations and revocations*

Improving reentry outcomes for people on supervision can lower costs, reduce prison populations, and increase community safety.



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Other Sources

Google

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/>

NPC Research: <https://npcresearch.com/reports-publications/>



Using Data to Ask for Resources



We Need Money!

One story:

- Let me tell you who we are and what we do as an accountability court.

A new story:

- Let me tell you what we could do with more resources!



Transportation



Narrative

Theme/ Purpose (Why)	What is the story about?
-------------------------	--------------------------

Setting (Where and When)	Time and location
-----------------------------	-------------------

Characters (Who)	Protagonist- central character with clear goal or conflict
	Antagonist – opposition or conflict. Can be a person, place or thing

Plot (How)	Sequence of events
------------	--------------------

Conflict (What)	What needs to be overcome?
	What is at stake and why does it matter?



Our Narrative

Theme/ Purpose (Why)	Program participants whose lack of transportation prevents full participation in the program.
Setting (Where and When)	Bulldawg Judicial Circuit
Characters (Who)	Protagonist- Participants Antagonist – No car
Plot (How)	A dedicated participant is making progress in the program, but misses key appointments due to a lack of consistent transportation.
Conflict (What)	A preventable barrier needs to be removed. This barrier could be the difference between successful completion and jail.

Data Story Arc

Decision
Point

What needs to
change?

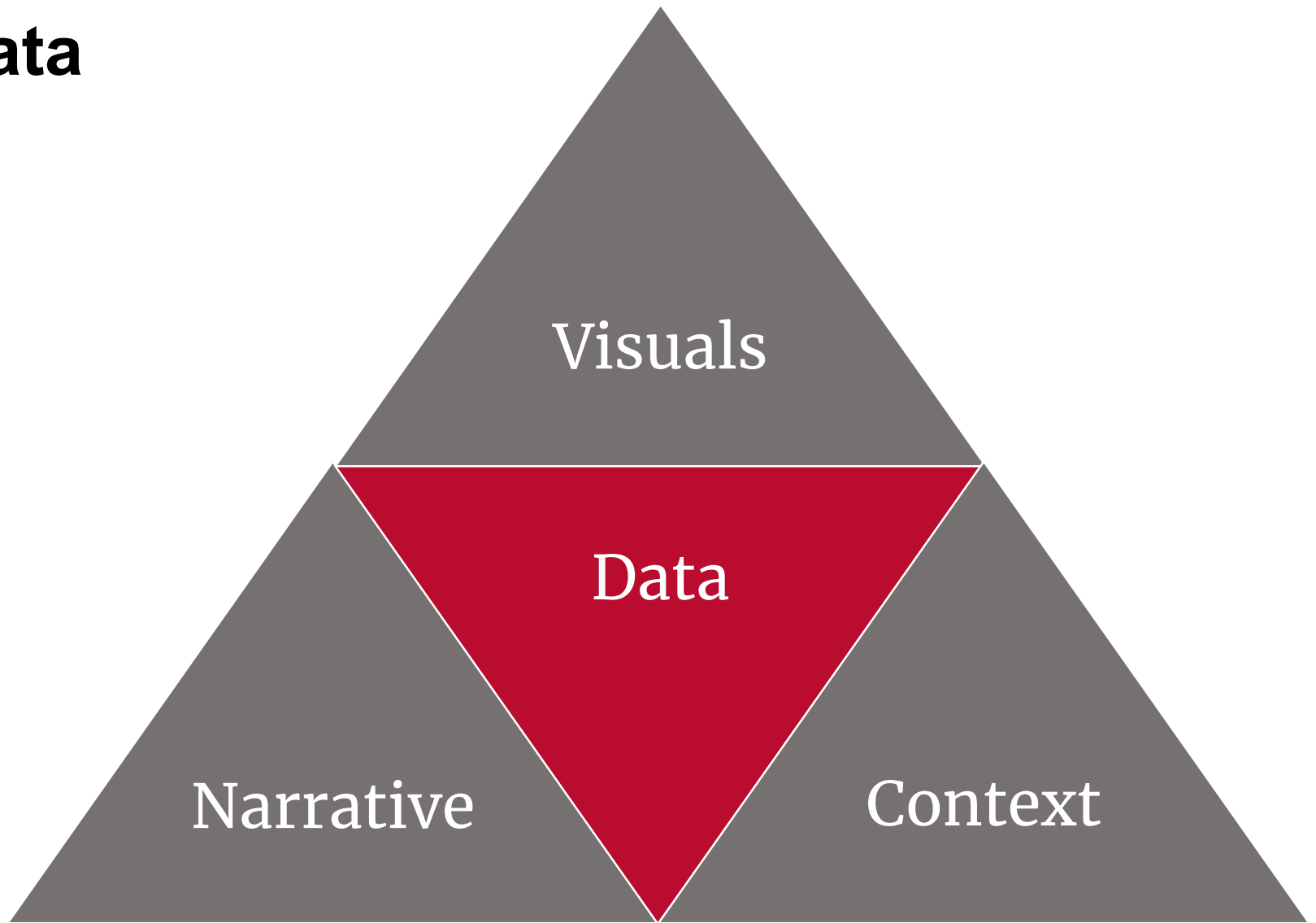
The problem
has a
measurable
solution

What is the problem?

The new normal, or
status quo can
begin again



Data



Asking for money without data...



Data to Communicate the Problem

- Number of court dates missed due to a lack of transportation
- Number of drug tests missed due to a lack of transportation
- Program participants terminated due to a lack of transportation
- Cost associated with terminated participants going to jail



Data to Support Your Decision Point

- Average distance program participants need to travel for treatment or court dates
- Average rideshare cost per mile (or transit, if applicable)
- 21 miles in Fayette County ~ \$25 for Uber
 - (Source: Uber Price Estimate)
- \$5,000 covers 200 trips



Creating Effective Grant Proposals



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Applying for Grants

- Demonstration of clear, measurable, and appropriate program goals
- Quality and completeness of your application
- Demonstration of need
- Pay attention to the deadline



Within Fulton County there are 22 law enforcement agencies responsible for public safety and

making daily arrests within the jurisdiction, which includes 14 municipalities:

Fulton County. Law Enforcement agencies are often the first point of contact

with the population in crisis. In 2015, Grady Behavioral Health, the agency

responsible for crisis stabilization for Fulton County, received nearly 10,000 patients for crisis

services. 15% of those patients were brought to the facility by law enforcement.

According to the US Census, Fulton County is home to 10% of the population of

Georgia, with over 1,010,000 residents, representing a progressive 10% increase from the last

census in 2010. The Atlanta Regional Commission reports that the 10-county Atlanta region is

home to 4,332,600 people in 2015, increasing from 4,272,300 in 2014. Fulton County also serves

as the home to the busiest airport in the world, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Crime: Fulton County has the highest crime and incarceration rates in the state. Many people

who cycle through the jail system have underlying problems, including mental illnesses that have

not been addressed. Fulton County is the largest feeder of the 159 counties to the Georgia

Department of Corrections, representing 9% of prison admissions in 2015. Recidivism rates in

Fulton County are high, with 77% of inmates in 2014 having been arrested two or more times.

Forensic Numbers: Fulton County is the largest feeder to the DBHDD Forensic Services

in Georgia. In 2015, Fulton County sent DBHDD Forensic Services 274 requests for a pre-arrest

evaluation of competency or insanity; this number reflects about 10% of the state-wide requests.

That same year, DBHDD received 86 new orders declaring a defendant as Incompetent to Stand

Trial and mandating restoration services from Fulton County, which is 15% of the state-wide

total. Currently, the DBHDD system has 641 forensic beds, with 81 occupied by a Fulton County

defendant. Additionally, Fulton comprises 33% of the DBHDD forensic hospital waiting list.

Fulton County Jail: The Fulton County Jail, operated by the Fulton County Sheriff's Office has

struggled to keep up with crime rates and only recently was relieved from a Federal Consent

Monitoring Decree for jail overcrowding. Medical Services at Fulton County Jail are contracted

to Corizon Health, who provides all medical and mental health services. Corizon currently

operates under a contested contract, with the Sheriff's Office citing poor performance that led to

the loss of jail accreditation in 2014. In 2015, 26,079 inmates were booked into Fulton County

Jail with an average daily population of 2,511. 87% of inmates received medical screening at

intake. Currently, one-third of all defendants in the Fulton County Jail receive psychotropic

medication.

The Acute Psychiatric Unit at the jail reported a total number of admissions of (male 1,274) and

(female 296) in 2015, translating to 6% of the total jail population. The average number of

inmates on psychiatric observation on a daily basis was 38 and a total of 1,110 inmates were on

suicide watch in 2015. In 2015, Mental Health staff made 39,888 contacts with inmates. In 2015,

6,600 initial mental health assessments were conducted and 33,371 inmates remained on the

clinical division active case load receiving ongoing care.



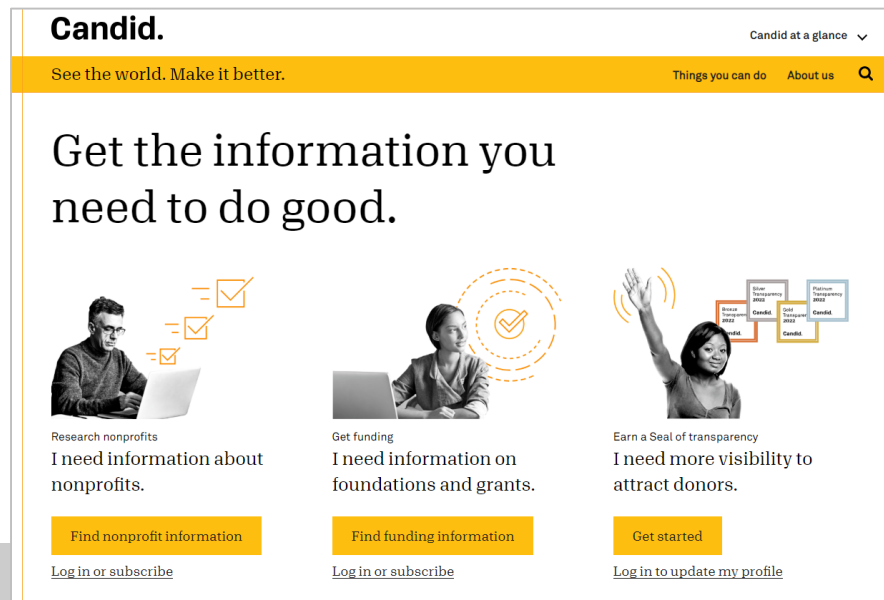
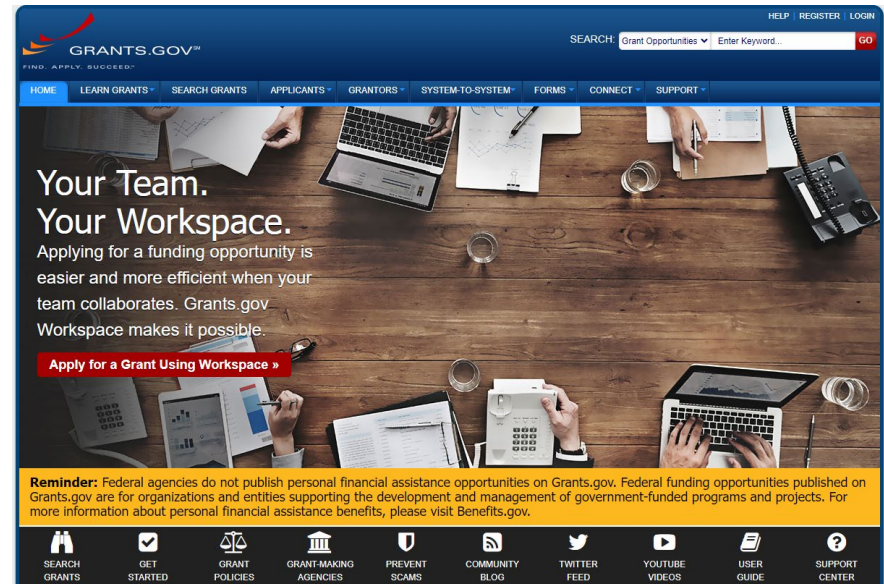
Other Things to Think About

- Know your funder
- How are you going to evaluate the outcomes?
- Ask for help and have others read your grant
- Don't be fancy!
- Don't get discouraged



Grant Resources

- Grants.gov
- candid.org (formerly the Foundation Center)
 - Grant research
 - Training: Introduction to finding grants, Creating a sound proposal budget, introduction to project budgets, proposal writing boot camp, Fundraising



Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program Expansion

Starting December 2022, CACJ will open the Accountability Court Coordinator Certification Program to additional team member roles. The program is a professional development opportunity for accountability court team members including, treatment providers, case managers, probation, etc. who are interested in completing the certification program.

CACJ will accept applications for the next program cohort from June 1 – 30, 2023. Selected participants will be contacted by CACJ no later than July 30, 2023.

Please note, there are a limited amount of spaces available.

[Coordinator Certification Program Expansion Flyer and Instructions to Apply](#)

Coordinator Certification Program Application



Contact

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