

What is the Eligibility Rules Service project?

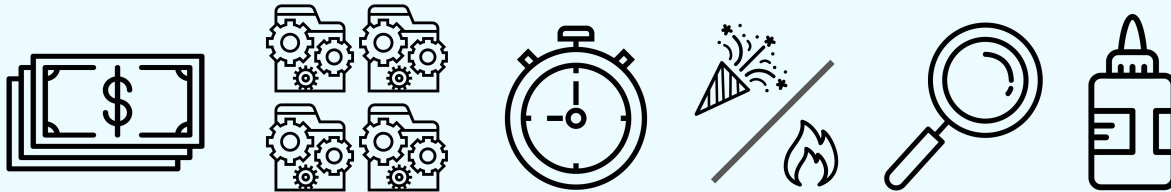
This 18F project is exploring the idea of helping states determine program eligibility through the use of a centralized web service that could evaluate applicant data, instead of the common scenario where each state builds or buys their own system to do so. This presentation provides an overview of the idea.

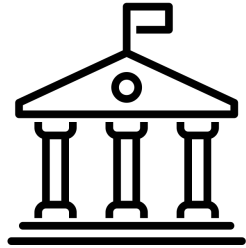
For more information visit:

<https://github.com/18F/eligibility-rules-service>

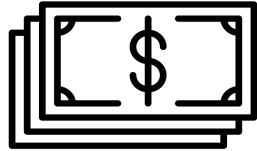
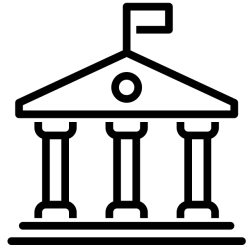
The challenge

(very much simplified)

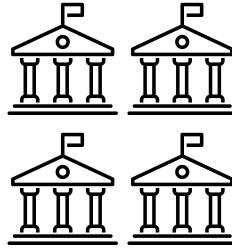
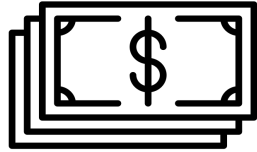
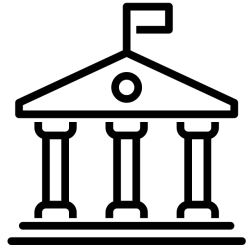




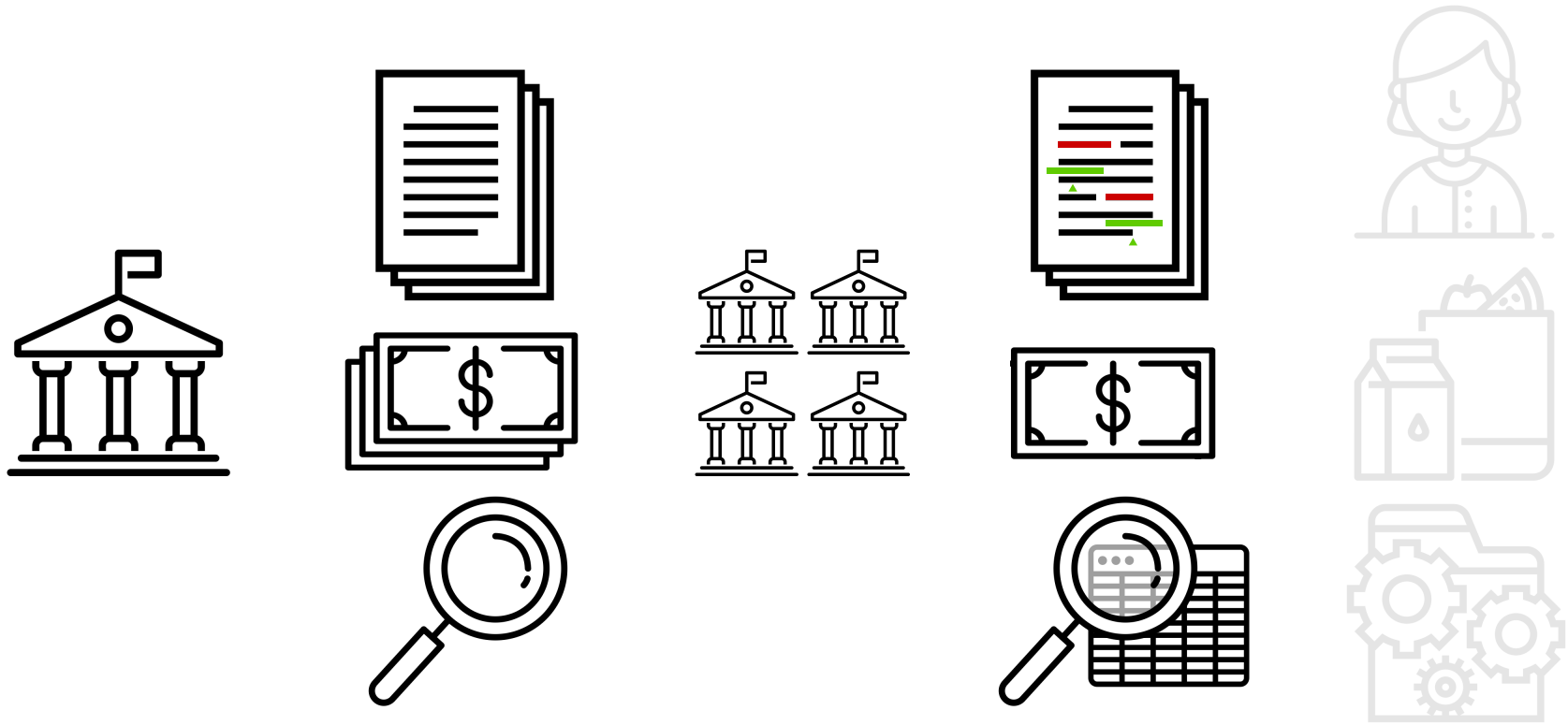
The federal government operates health and human services programs...



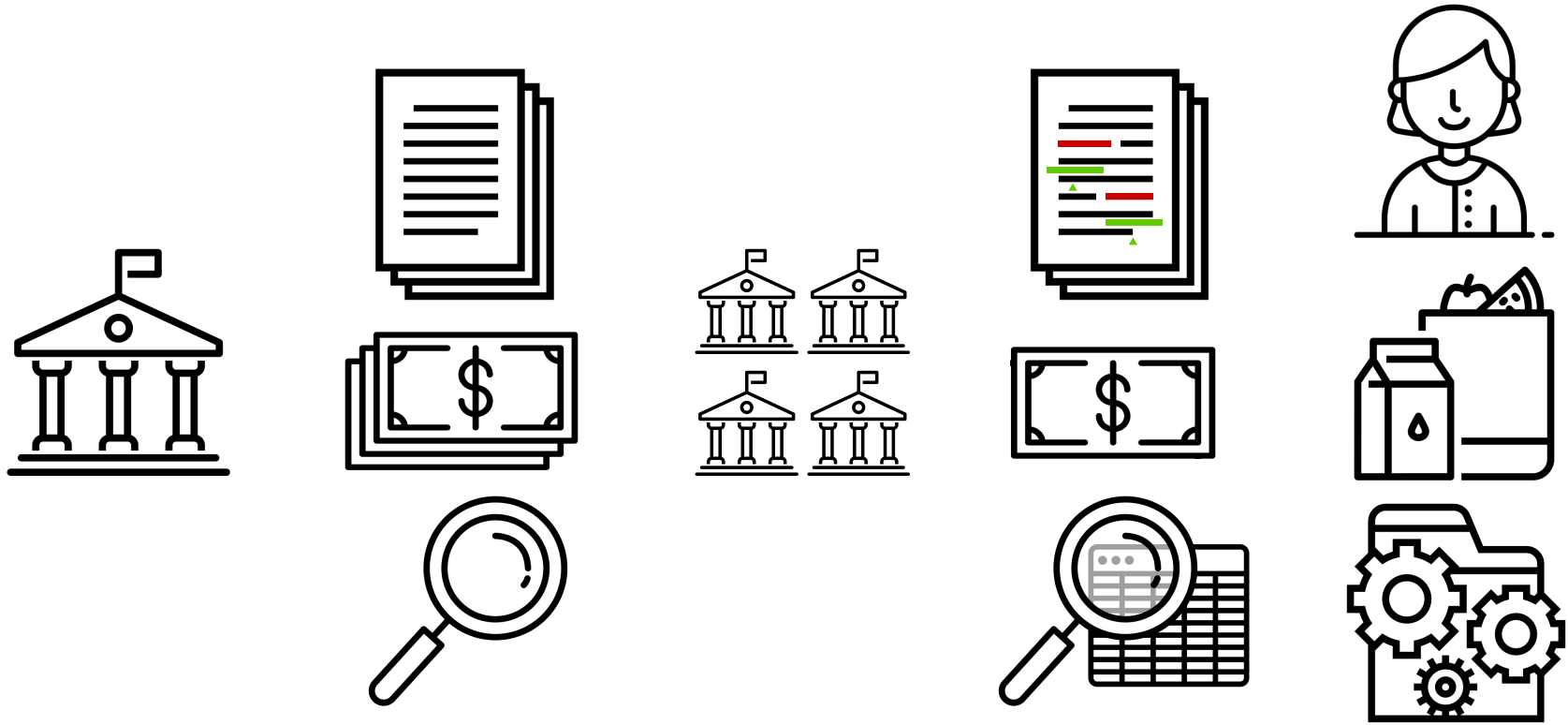
...by defining policy, providing funding, and conducting oversight...



...of states who implement the programs...



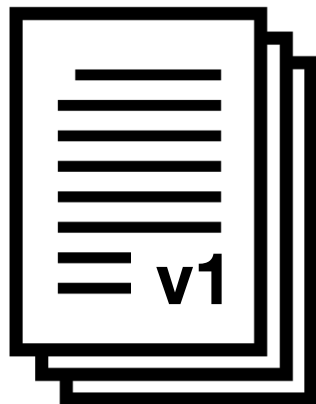
...by adjusting policy, spending funds, and complying with oversight...



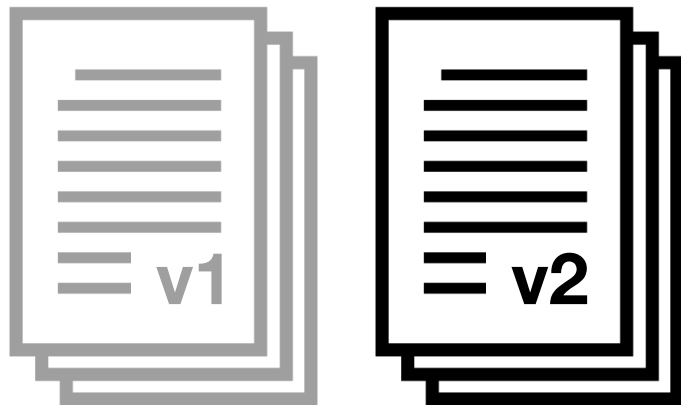
...in order to operate the program, deliver services, and build or buy technology.



We're going to focus on the technology part, particularly eligibility systems.



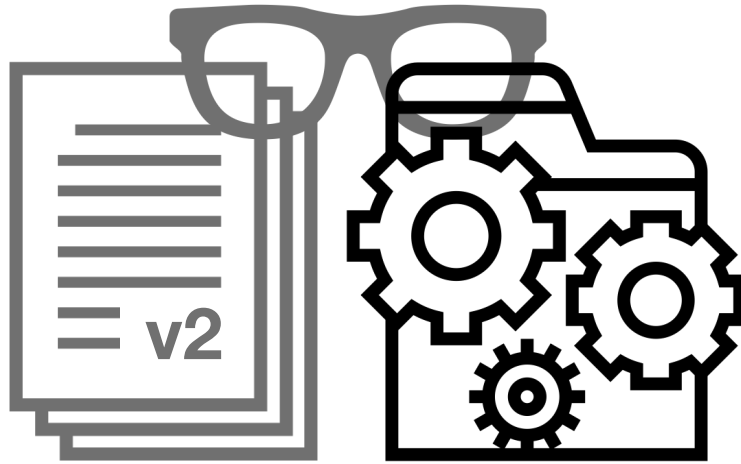
Sometimes the federal policies change.



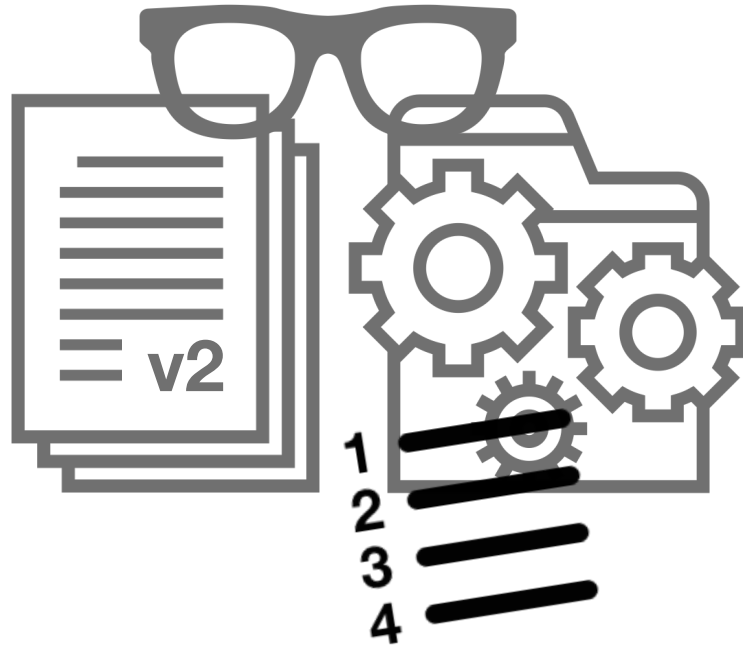
When this happens...



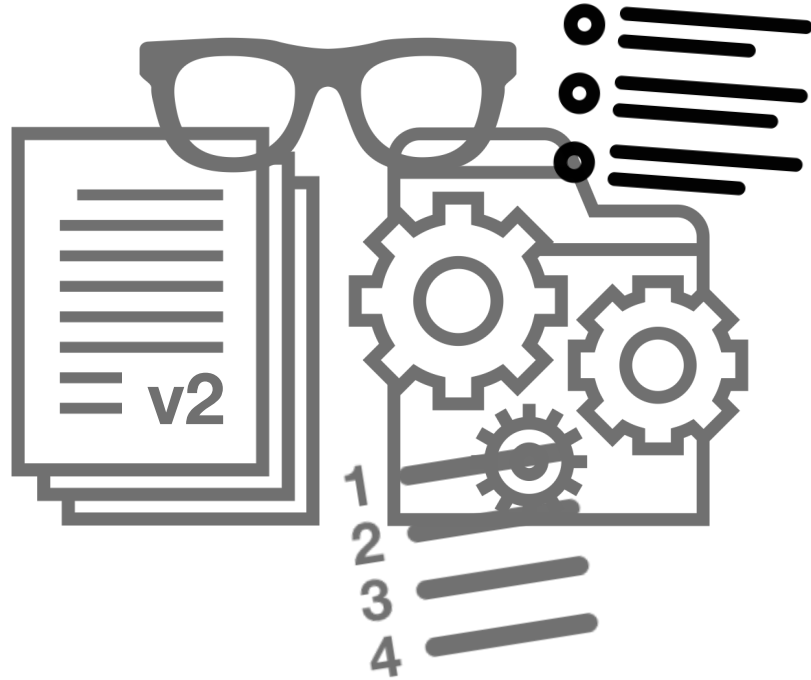
States review the changes...



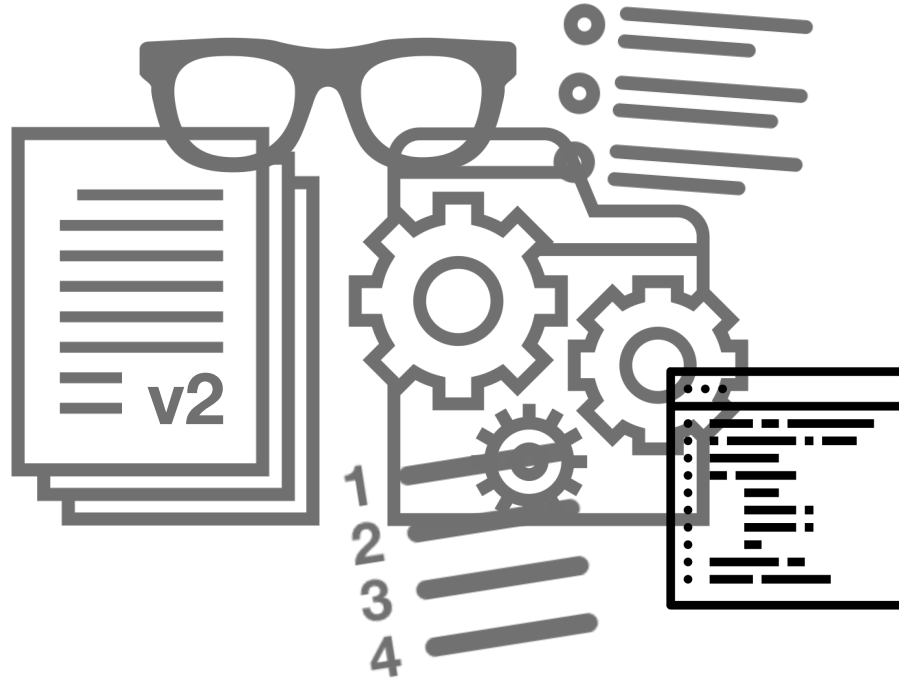
...identify needed changes to systems...



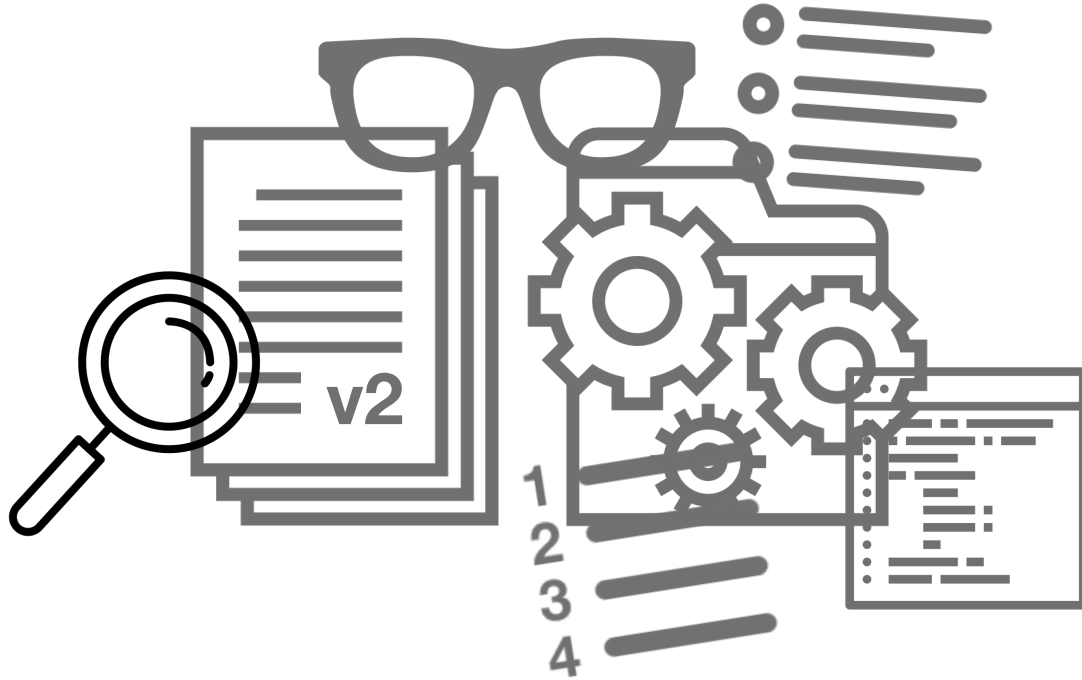
...prioritize system changes against all their other work...



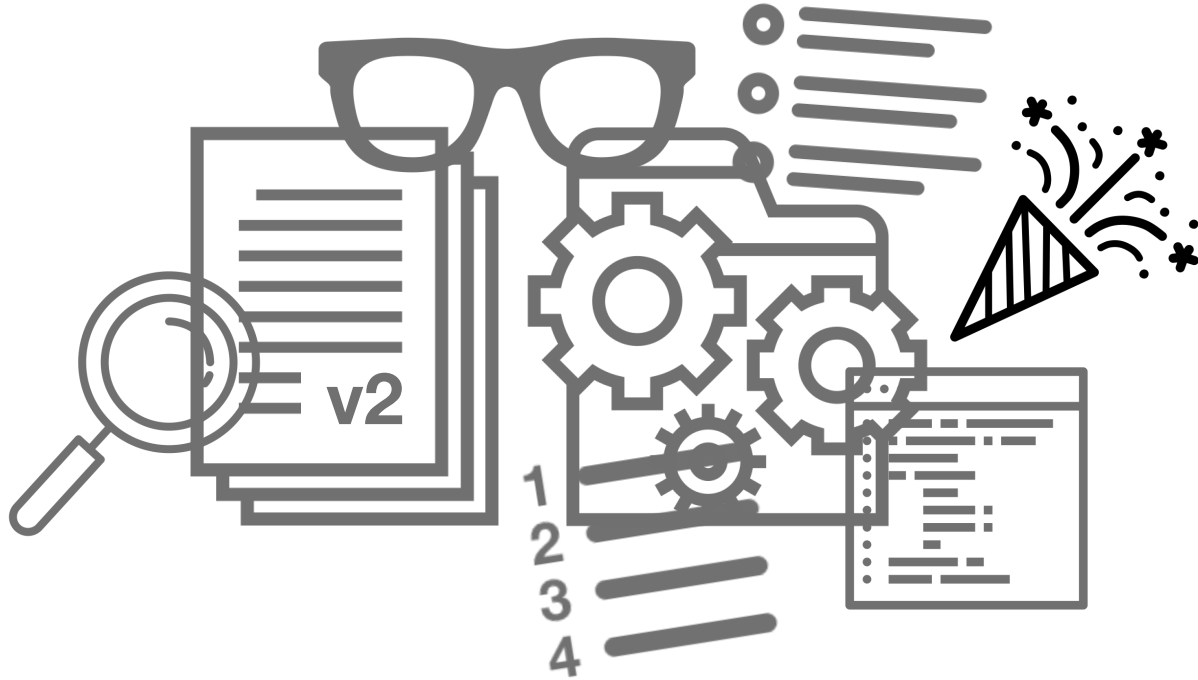
...turn policy into business requirements...



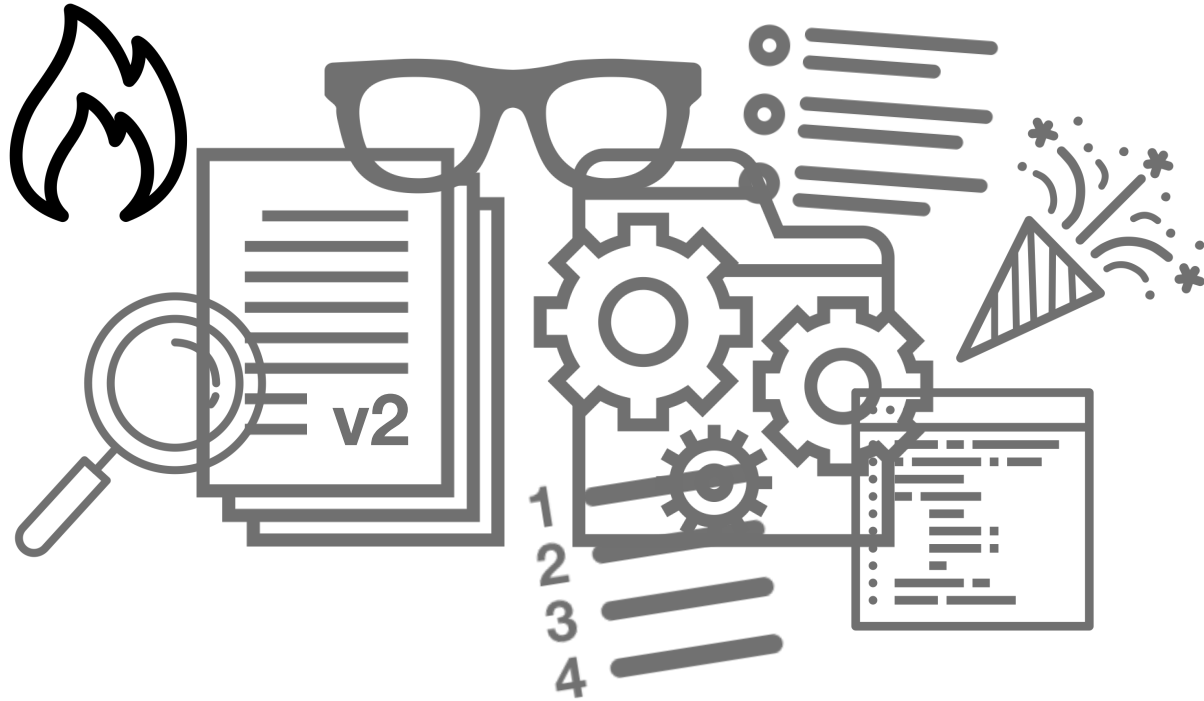
...and procure or conduct implementation work.



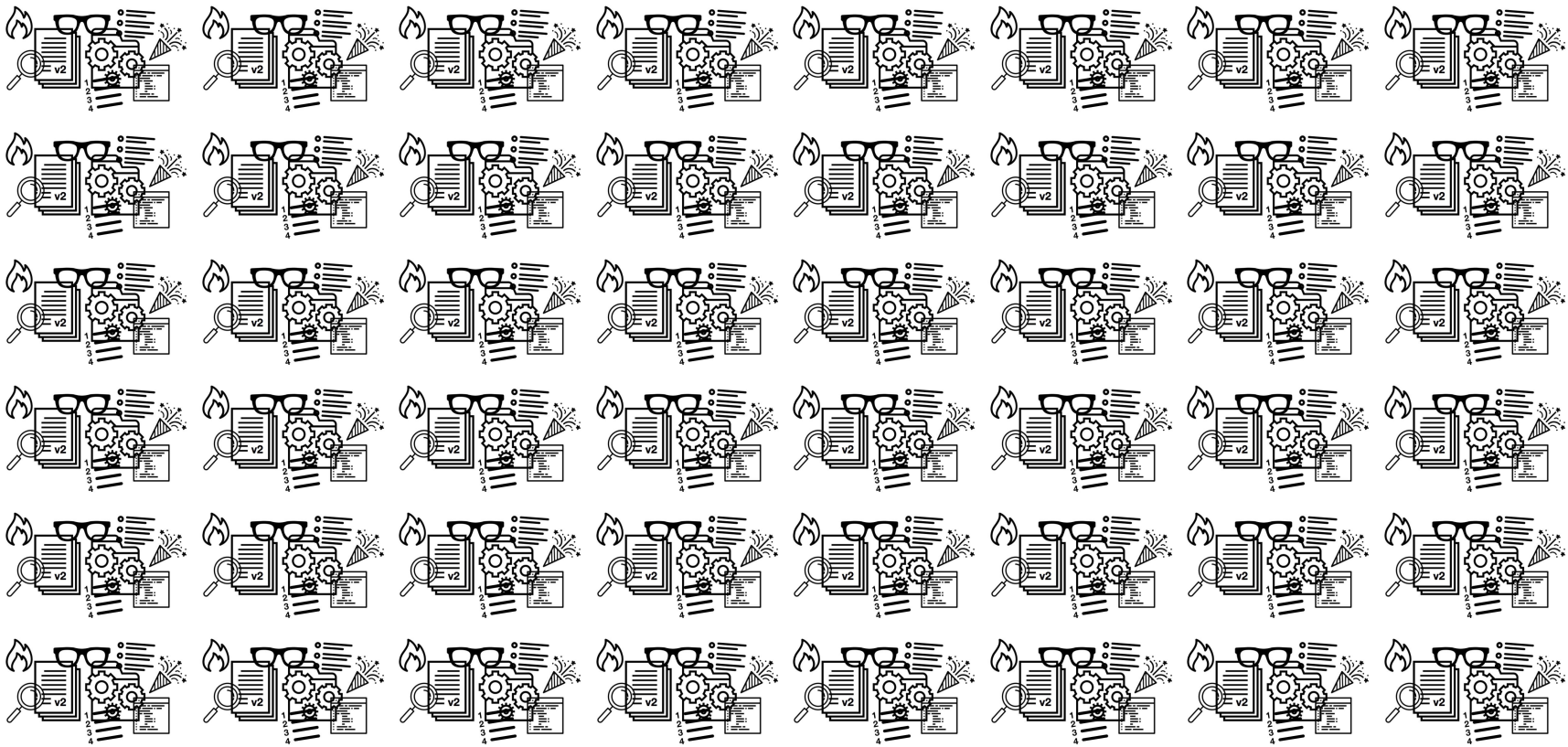
Oversight of progress happens all along.



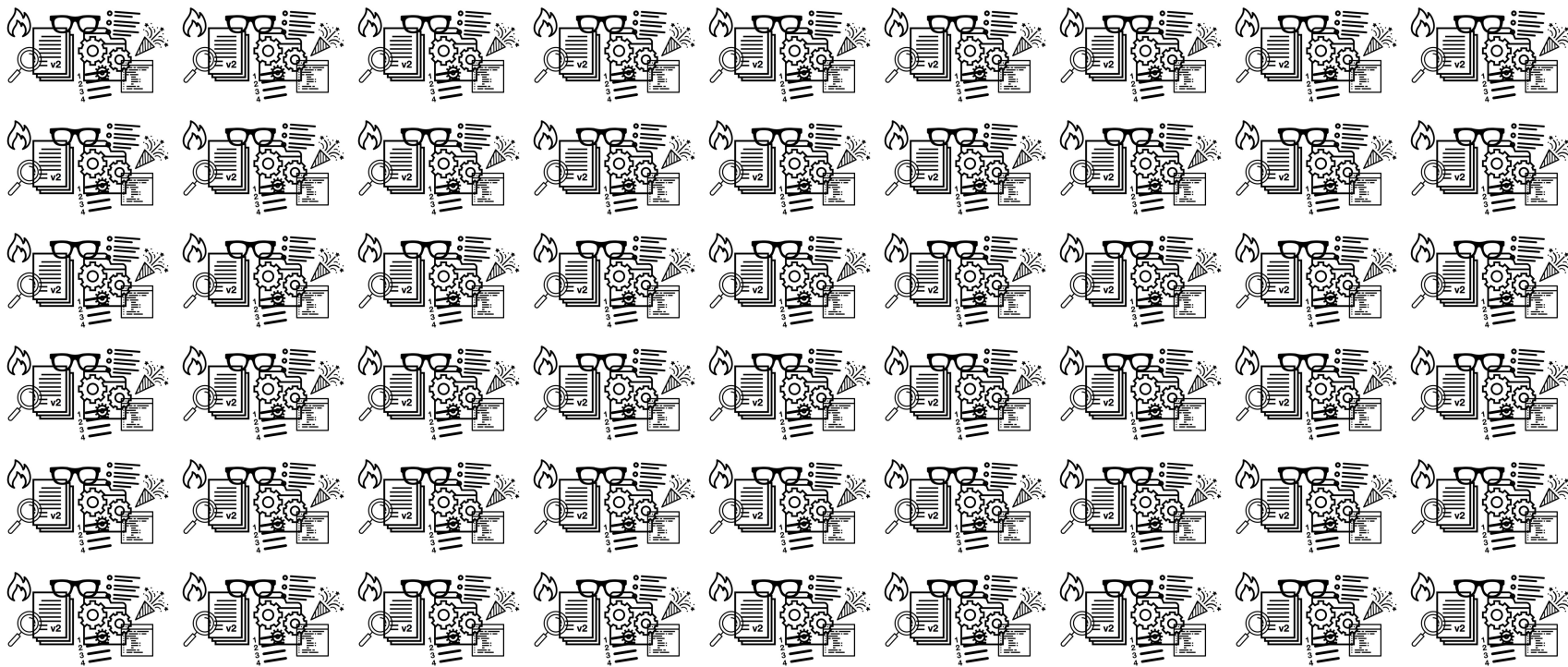
And after all the time, effort, and money, sometimes the process is a success...



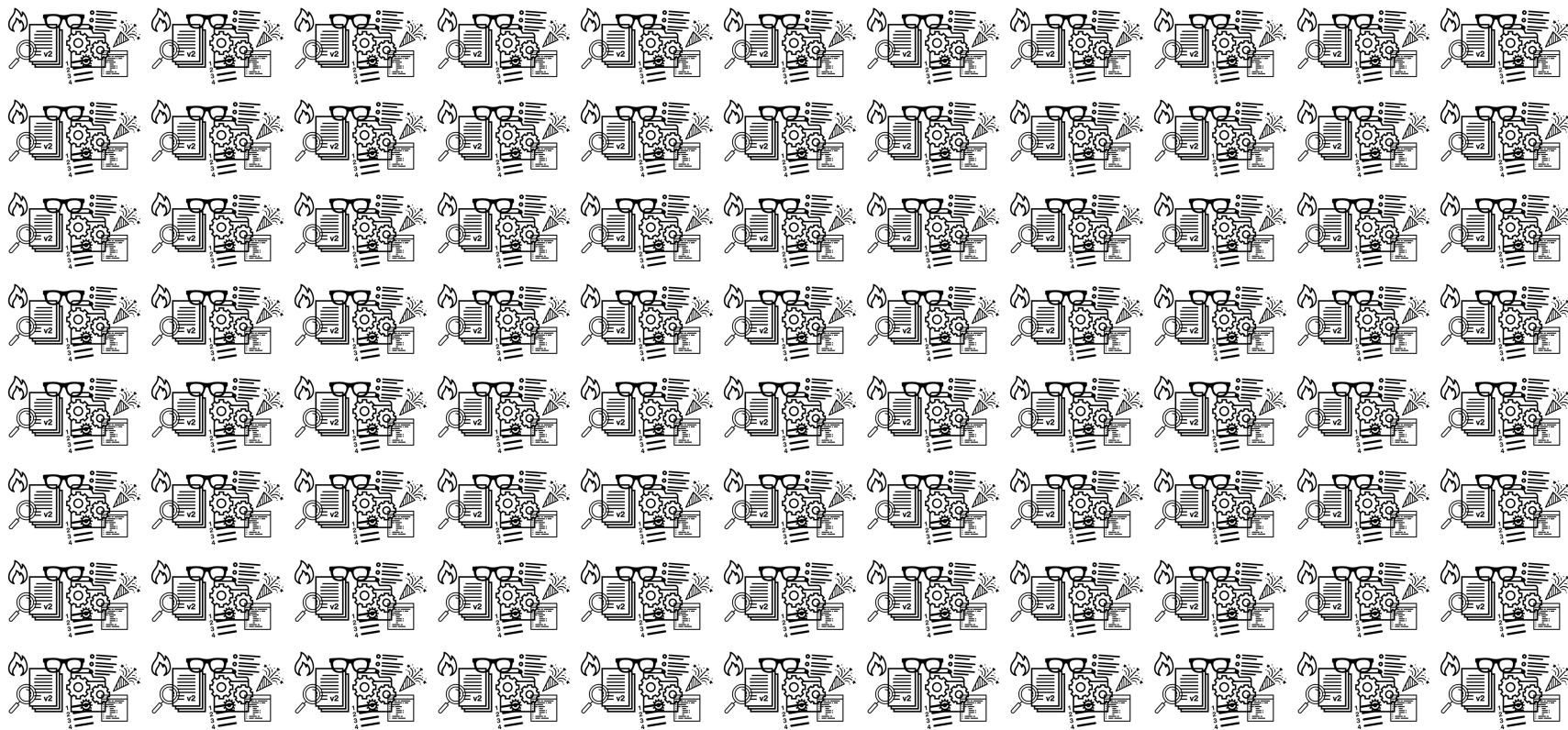
...and sometimes it's not.



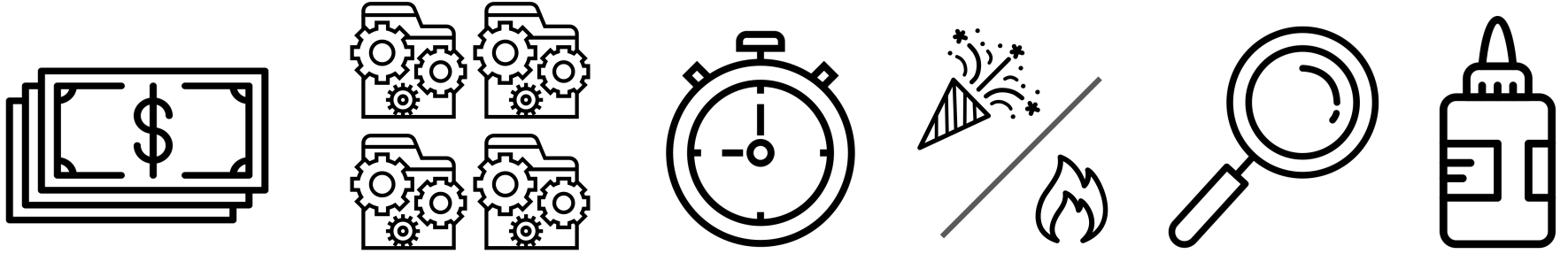
And this happens over and over, in all the states..



...and the territories.

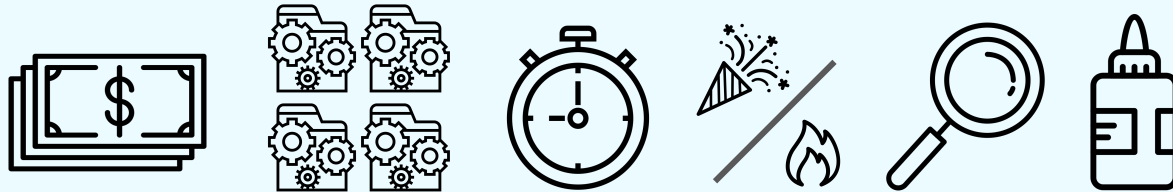


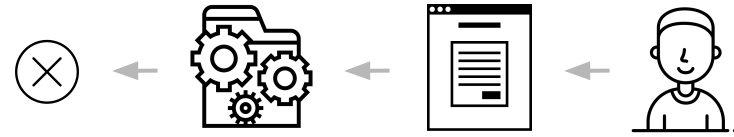
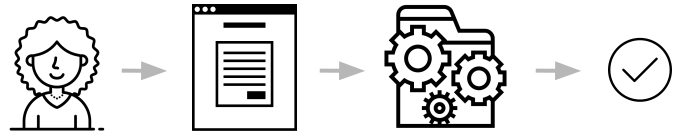
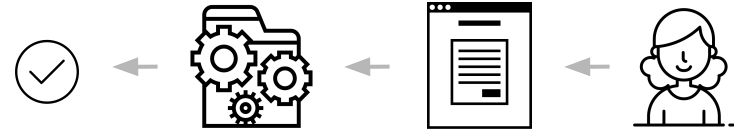
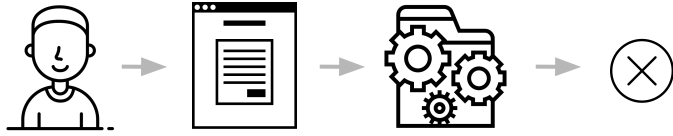
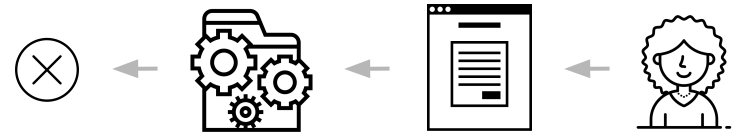
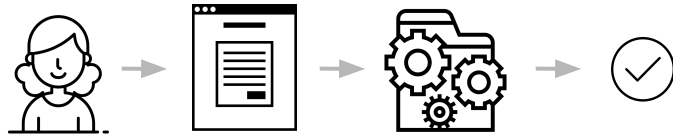
...and sometimes the tribal organizations.



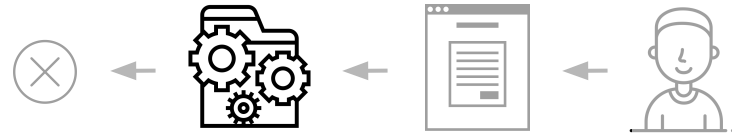
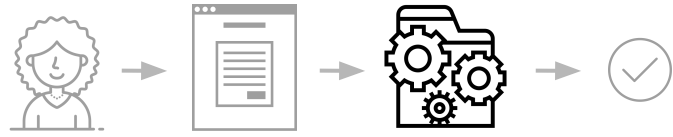
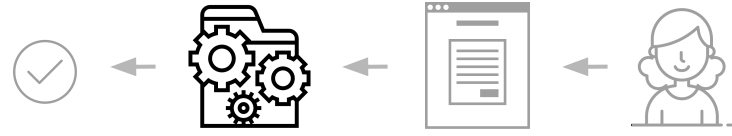
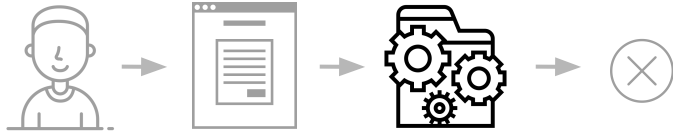
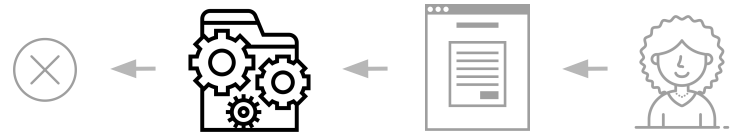
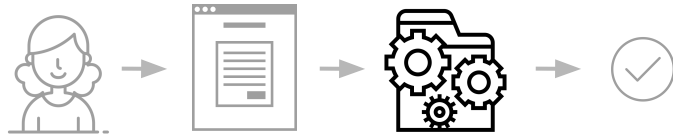
It's expensive, duplicative, slow, risky, and leads to heavy oversight and vendor lock-in.

How might we address this?

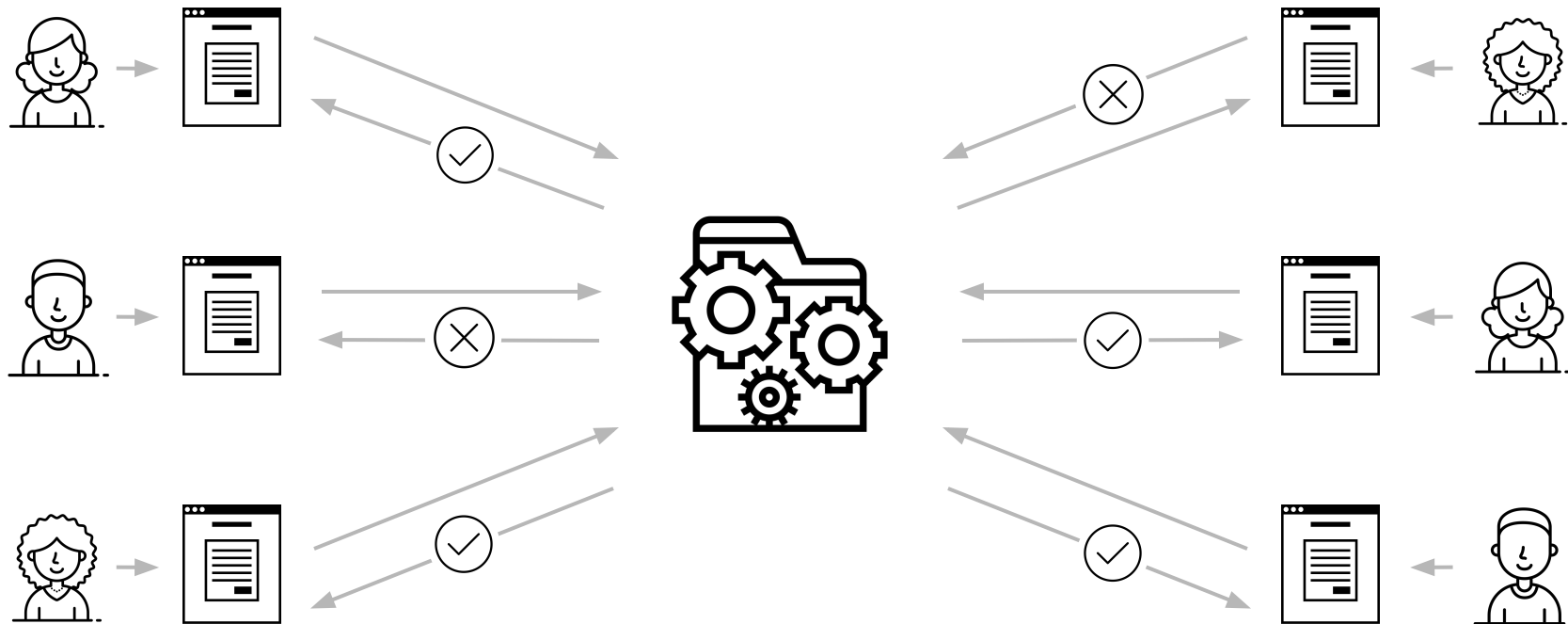




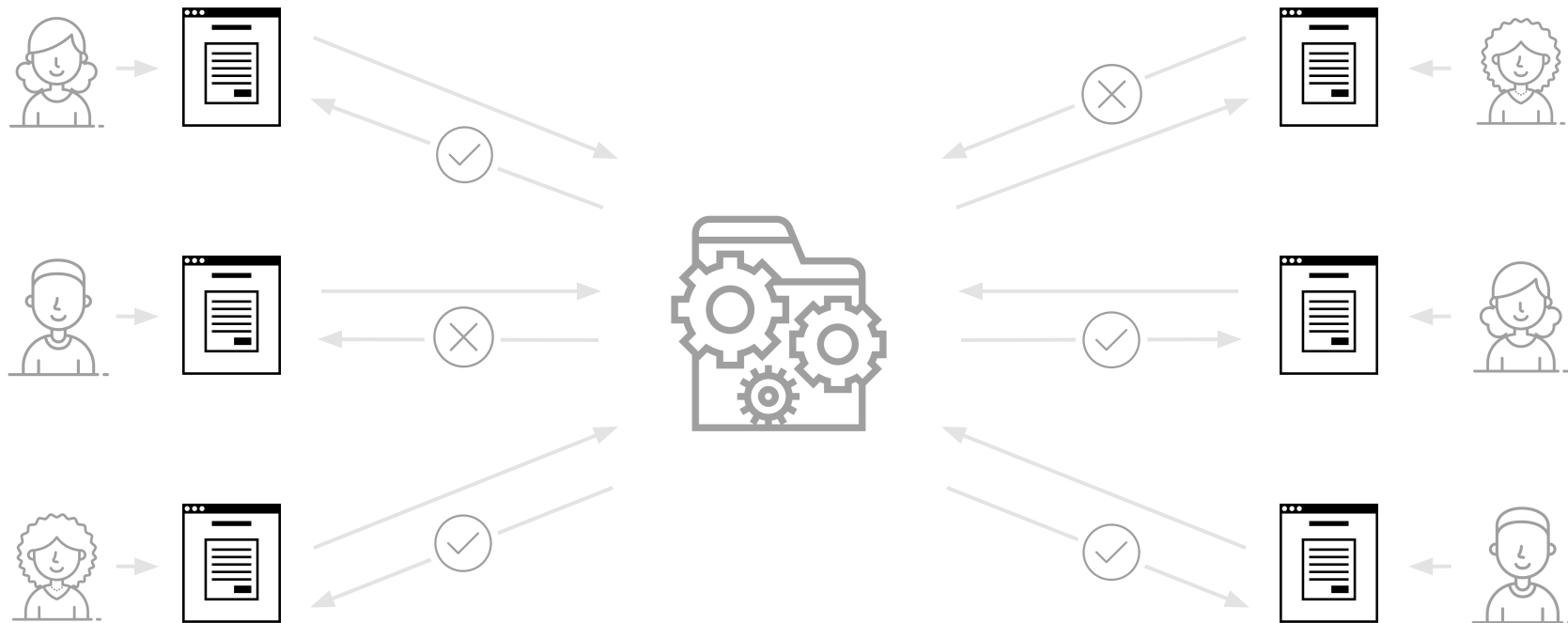
When someone applies to a program in a state, their data is evaluated against eligibility criteria by a rules engine the state operates.



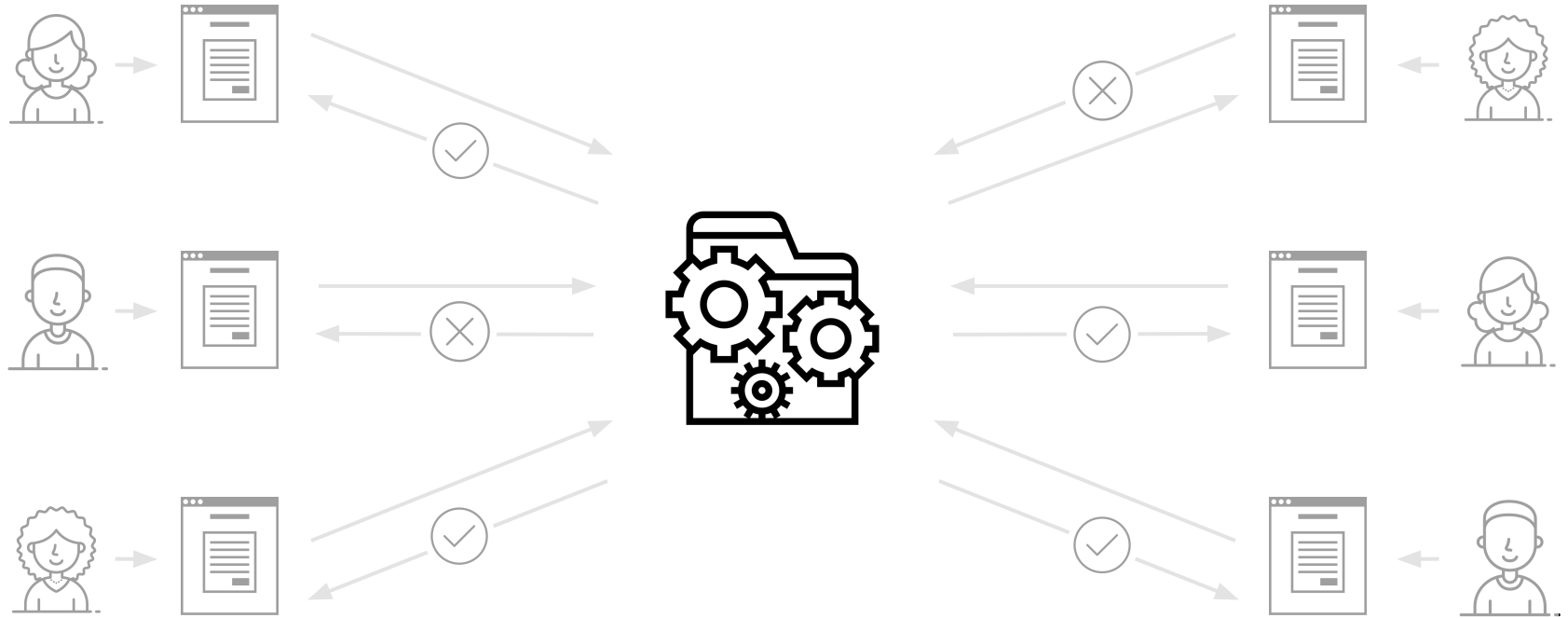
Each rules engine needs to change when the policies change how eligibility is determined. (This is where all the effort and risk comes in.)



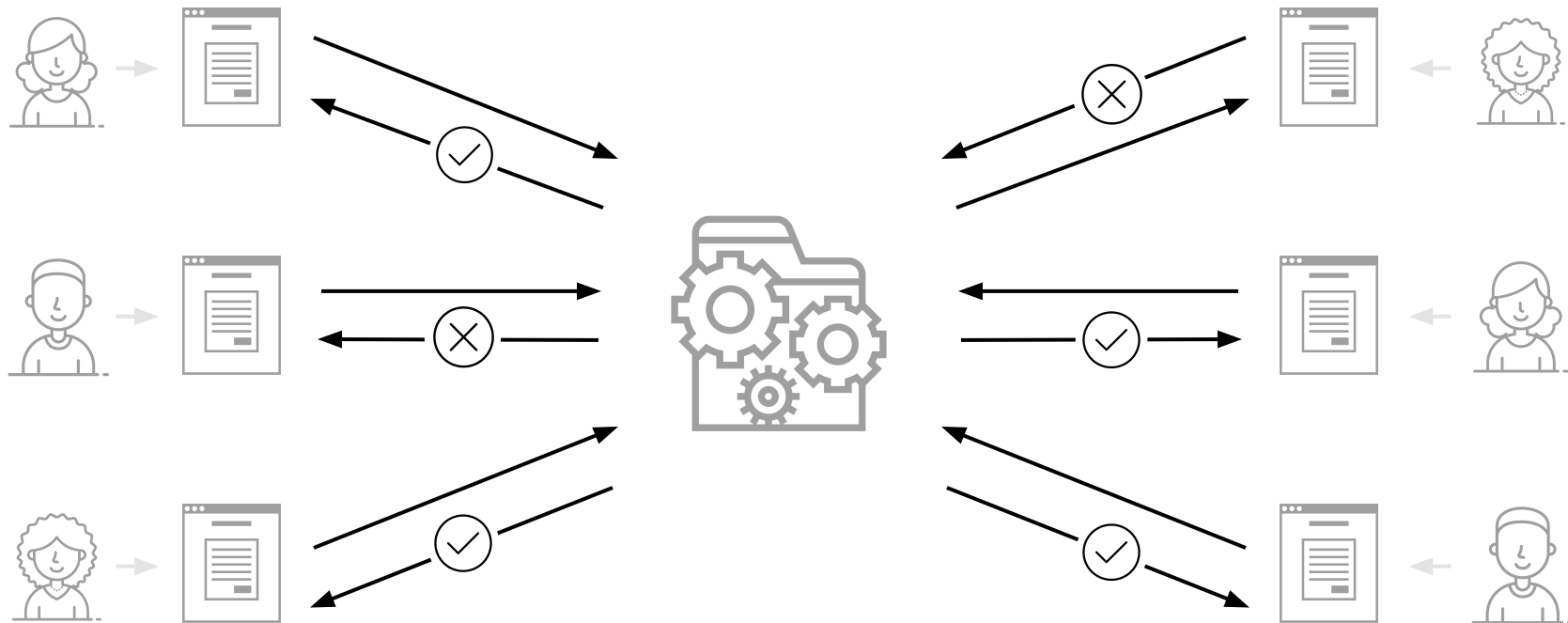
But there is a way that a single, central **rules service** could be accessed by many states so they wouldn't have to manage their own.



States would still have their own systems...



...but the rules part would be handled by a central rules service which would be managed by the federal agency.



The state systems would talk to the rules service over the internet using an *application programming interface* or API.

Want more information?

Hopefully this provided you with a high-level understanding of the challenge we are investigating and the potential solution that we are pursuing.

More detail is available at

<https://github.com/18F/eligibility-rules-service>

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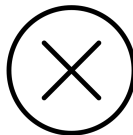
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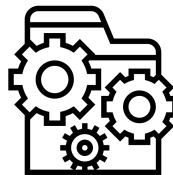
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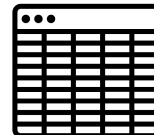
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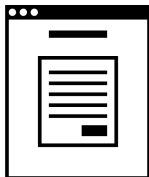
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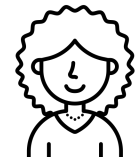
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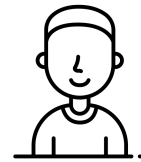
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