

Legislative Budgeting 101

Where does the \$\$\$
come from?



Appropriation (noun)

The provision of funds, through an **annual appropriations act** or a **permanent law**, for federal agencies to make payments out of the Treasury **for specified purposes**. The formal federal spending process consists of two sequential steps: [authorization](#) and then appropriation.

4 SEC. 766. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000,
5 to remain available until September 30, 2022, for the Na-
6 tional Institute of Food and Agriculture to issue a com-
7 petitive grant to support the establishment of an Agri-
8 culture Business Innovation Center at a historically black
9 college or university to serve as a technical assistance hub
10 to enhance agriculture-based business development oppor-
11 tunities.

SEC. 4011. APPROPRIATION FOR THE TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.

In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the General Services Administration for fiscal year 2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$1,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to carry out the purposes of the Technology Modernization Fund.

Simplified appropriations timeline

Time to get \$\$ - 18+ mo

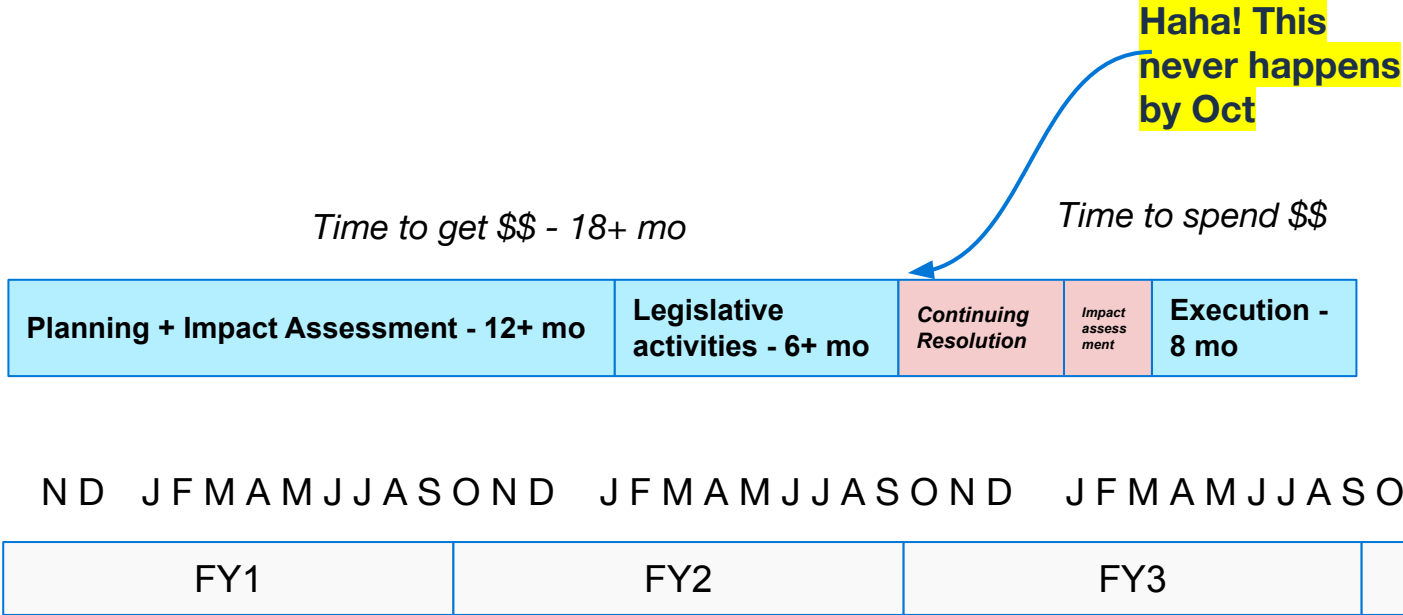
Time to spend \$\$

Planning + Impact Assessment - 12+ mo	Legislative activities - 6+ mo	Execution - 12 mo
--	---------------------------------------	--------------------------

ND JFMAMJJASOND JFMAMJJASOND JFMAMJJASOND

FY1	FY2	FY3	FY4
-----	-----	-----	-----

Realistic timeline



The never ending cycle

12+ mo	Legislative activities - 6+ mo	Execution - 12 mo
--------	--------------------------------	-------------------

Planning + Impact Assessment - 12+ mo	Legislative activities - 6+ mo	Execution - 12 mo
---------------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------

Planning + Impact Assessment - 12+ mo	Legislative activities - 6+ mo	Execute
---------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------

ND JFMAMJJASOND JFMAMJJASOND JFMAMJJASOND

FY1	FY2	FY3	FY4
-----	-----	-----	-----

What influences the budget?

Political interest/williness

- Administrative priorities ← however, the President can only *suggest* a budget
- Senate Committees + Subcommittees ← made up of members of both the majority and minority
- Members of the House ← proposals generated here must be passed by the Senate

TTS + GSA leadership

- TTS has many funding streams, we are part of the FCSF appropriated fund - it is a TEENY TINY percentage of GSA's overall budget
- Most of the FCSF goes to Solutions, so the Solutions Assistant Commissioner sets priorities and budgeting processes
- TTS Finance manages the actual disbursement and tracking of funds

What influences the budget?

We usually get asked to prepare scenarios

High - FCSF gets \$95 mil from congress

- For awareness, this is what was passed for FY23

Mid - FCSF gets \$75 mil from congress

- For awareness, this is what was passed for FY24

Low - FCSF gets \$55 mil from congress

- For awareness, we were here for MANY YEARS before FY23

A similar thing happens at the state level

***But* on a slightly different timeline**

***And* if federal money is involved they have to do it for more funding bodies**

Why does this matter to
you?



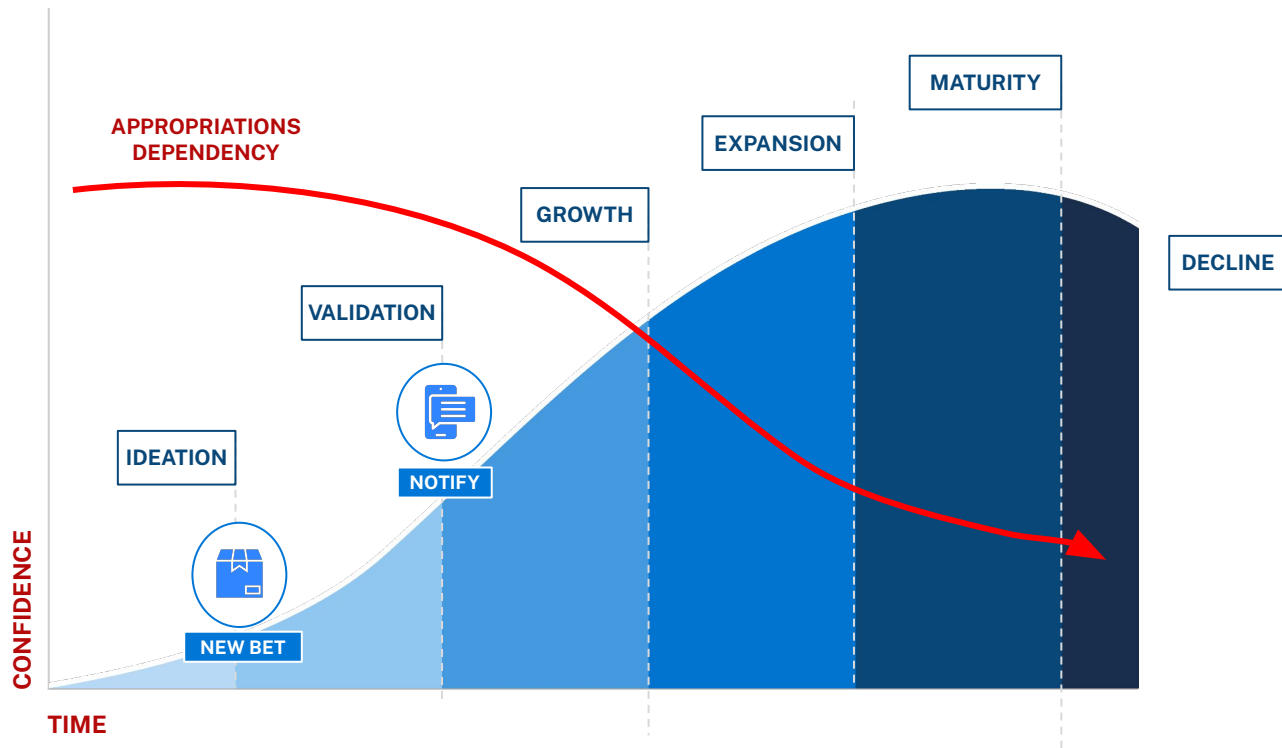
We pitch and plan for funding 2+ years in advance

- We may not know what we will be doing at that point in time, but we have to make some best guesses
- We also have to be mindful about what acceptable tradeoffs will be
- Despite our best planning efforts, we will ultimately be making adjustments on the fly because we'll better understand the impacts in the moment

The startup growth curve + funding stream impacts

If additional funding streams open up (e.g. agency contributions; revenue from customers), that shouldn't *replace* appropriations for the Studio — **appropriations will be needed for early stage experimentation no matter what.**

Revenue & agency contributions just help sustain *mature* products that are mostly ready to graduate out of the Studio anyway (e.g. Notify).



Helping partners navigate this process is part of making our/their work sustainable

- We need to be mindful of how our partners navigate the budgeting process and advocate for more modern ways of working
- It may feel like partners are distracted at specific times of the year or planning really far ahead - these are opportunities for support + understanding
- These timelines can affect start/stop/pause dates
- Knowing about a partners budget/budgeting process can help make starting new and follow on work smoother

**What specific funds
impact us?**



FCSF Authority

§323. Consumer Information Center Fund

(a) EXISTENCE.—There is in the Treasury a Consumer Information Center Fund, General Services Administration, for the purpose of disseminating Federal Government consumer information to the public and for other related purposes.

(b) DEPOSITS.—Money shall be deposited into the Fund from—

- (1) appropriations from the Treasury for Consumer Information Center activities;
- (2) user fees from the public;
- (3) reimbursements from other federal agencies for costs of distributing publications; and
- (4) any other income incident to Center activities.

(d) UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—Any unobligated balances at the end of a fiscal year remain in the Fund and are available for authorization in appropriation laws for subsequent fiscal years.

eGovernment Authority

(3) Projects under this subsection may include efforts to—

(A) make Federal Government information and services more readily available to members of the public (including individuals, businesses, grantees, and State and local governments);

(B) make it easier for the public to apply for benefits, receive services, pursue business opportunities, submit information, and otherwise conduct transactions with the Federal Government; and

(C) enable Federal agencies to take advantage of information technology in sharing information and conducting transactions with each other and with State and local governments.