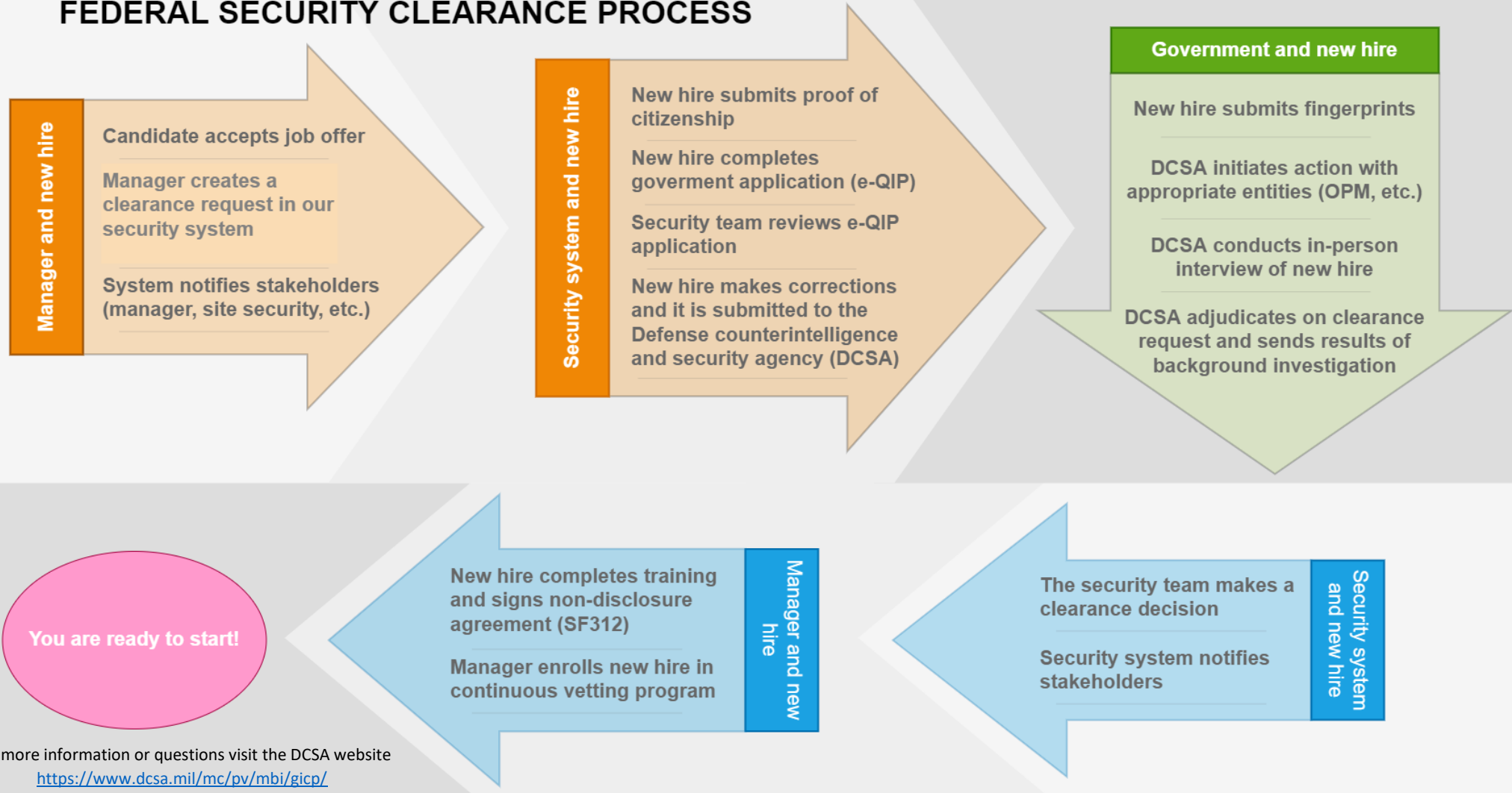Rhetorical context: As a lot of students are getting closer to graduating, job offers have started rolling in. For engineers, some of the most stable and highest paying jobs are with defense contractors. These contractors are privy to highly sensitive information that could pose a security threat to the United States if exposed. Obtaining a federal security clearance is often essential to getting the job. There are countless federal laws and regulations that are aimed at protecting classified national security information. Executive Order 13467 put the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) in charge of performing investigations on individuals working for or on behalf of the executive branch. Some sources say that 22% of applicants were denied a Top Secret clearance in 2019. Navigating this process can be stressful so this infographic is aimed at giving a new hire a high-level overview of what is going on with the employer and the DCSA. This infographic would be sent to the new hire from the company they are joining.

FEDERAL SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS

Manager and new hire

- Candidate accepts job offer
- Manager creates a clearance request in our security system
- System notifies stakeholders (manager, site security, etc.)

Security system and new hire

- New hire submits proof of citizenship
- New hire completes goverment application (e-QIP)
- Security team reviews e-QIP application
- New hire makes corrections and it is submitted to the Defense counterintelligence and security agency (DCSA)

Government and new hire

- New hire submits fingerprints
- DCSA initiates action with appropriate entities (OPM, etc.)
- DCSA conducts in-person interview of new hire
- DCSA adjudicates on clearance request and sends results of background investigation

Security system and new hire

- The security team makes a clearance decision
- Security system notifies stakeholders

Manager and new hire

- New hire completes training and signs non-disclosure agreement (SF312)
- Manager enrolls new hire in continuous vetting program

You are ready to start!

For more information or questions visit the DCSA website
https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/mbi/gicp/