

Exploring the Possibilities and Challenges for the

Competitive Equity Grant Program

February 19, 2019

Equity Advisory Committee



2019 Roadmap

History

2013-2018

Explore

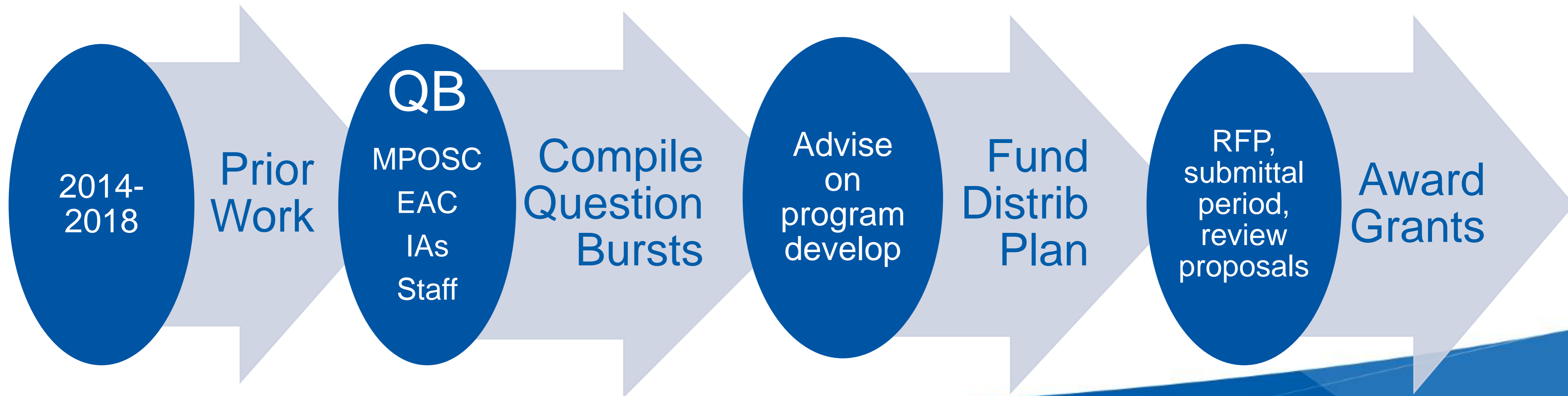
January-February

Develop

March-June

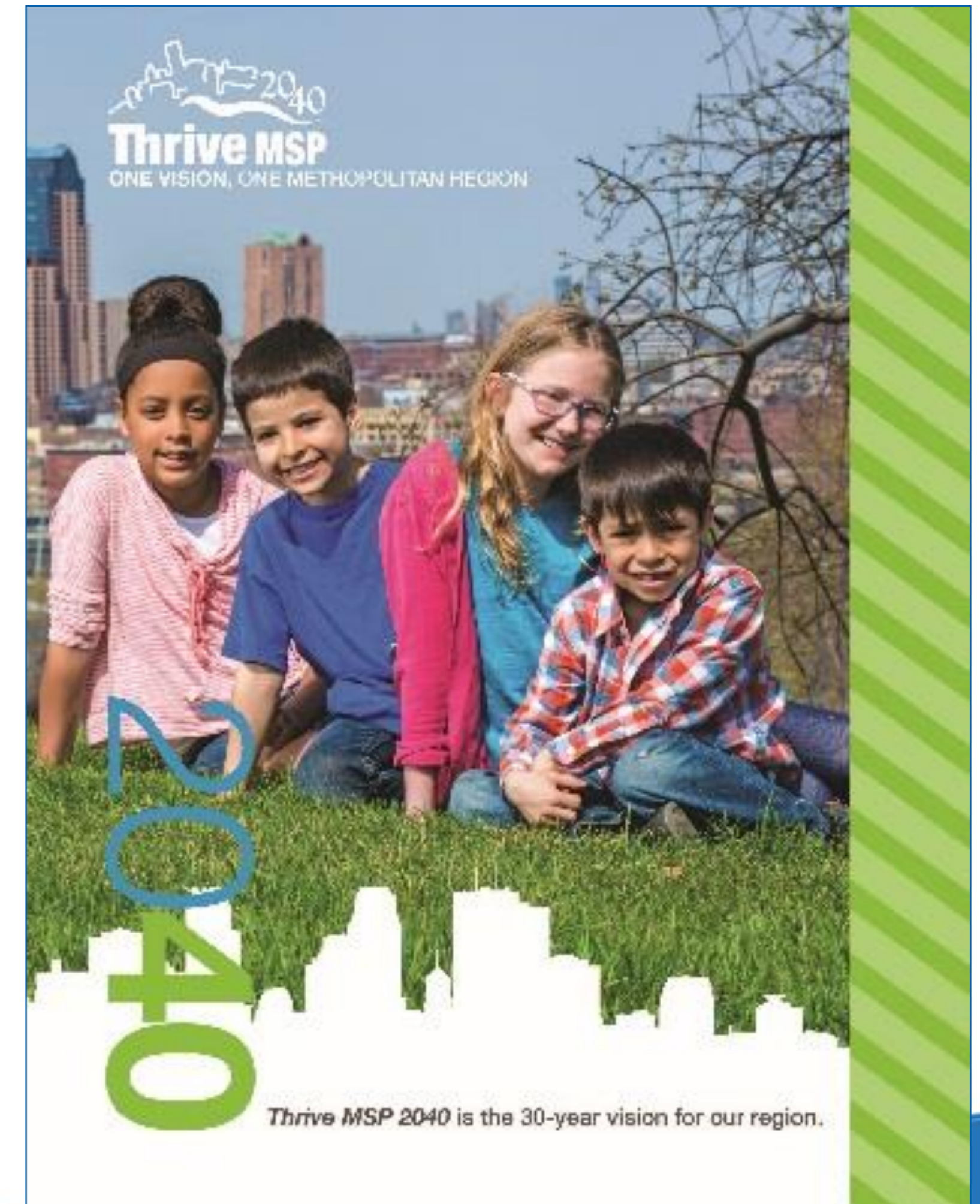
Implement

July-December



History: Thrive MSP 2040

In 2014, the Metropolitan Council committed to working in partnership with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies, and other partners to “strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents, such as across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability.”



History: Research of Regional Park Use Among Communities of Color

- In 2014, Council staff convened focus groups with 263 individuals from various racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- Identified barriers to regional park visitation and explored preferred outdoor recreational activities and desired amenities that could increase and enhance regional park use for communities of color.
- The top barrier to participation was awareness of the regional park system. Other barriers include time, safety concerns, transportation options, language barriers, and others.
- Additional focus groups and surveys in 2017-2018 reinforced these findings and informed the 2018 update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

History: Equity Grant Program Engagement

- In 2016, Council staff engaged the ten implementing agencies, equity partners, and a volunteer-led outdoor recreation organization to gather input for the development of the grant program. In total, 33 stakeholders were engaged.
- A few early ideas from this engagement:
 - importance of partnerships with implementing agency for project development
 - the need for engagement funds along with capital funds
 - innovative ideas around grant review, selection, and other aspects of the process

History: 2015, 2018 Regional Parks Policy Plans

- In 2015, the Council committed to create a set-aside competitive equity grant program for capital projects.
- In 2018, the Council reiterated its commitment to establish this program and put a deadline to develop it in 2019.



Where we stand today

2019 Opportunity

- \$300,000
- Capital dollars (built things)
- Competitive
- Grants awarded by end of 2019 to Implementing Agencies
- Equity defined in Regional Parks Policy Plan

2019 Work

- Shape criteria and process to build an innovative program.

Today's activity - Question Burst

- Brainstorm questions
- Share questions
- Identify themes
- Next Steps

Today's activity - Question Burst

- What are your questions regarding the opportunities and challenges of implementing the Competitive Equity Grant Program?

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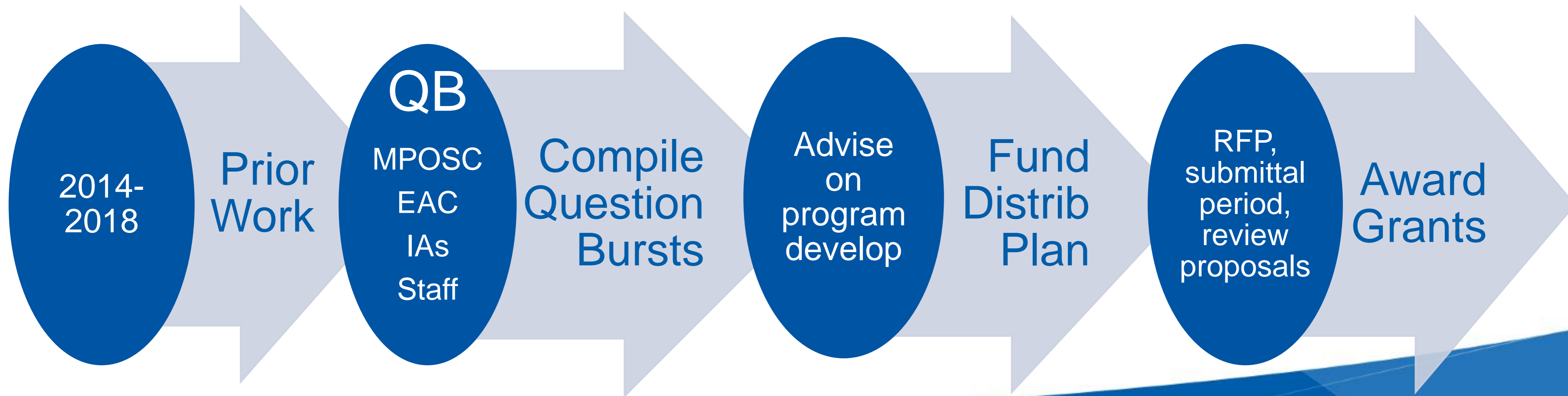
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