

ERICSA 2015: Building Sweet Futures for ...



# The Confidentiality Toolkit, NIEM and Data Exchange Standards

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**What does it all mean?**



# Topics

- ❖ Data Sharing Overview
- ❖ Glossary of Jargon
- ❖ Opportunities to Share Data
- ❖ Tools & Techniques for Sharing Data
  - Confidentially Toolkit
  - NIEM Toolkit
  - Human Services Domain Support
- ❖ Getting Started

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# Collaboration and Coordination

*“For decades, human services agencies have been seeking to identify ways to promote coordination and collaboration across the work of human services and other related entities in order to provide more effective services to children, families, and individuals with multiple needs.”\**

\* ACF Confidentiality Toolkit 2014

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# Data Sharing Glossary

**NIEM** – National Information Exchange Model

**IEPD** – Information Exchange Package Document

**XML** - Extensible Markup Language

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# The Past and Future of Data Sharing

## Flat file – unstructured data

Data Exchange Example 1

Header	John	Smith	079801234	Trailer
--------	------	-------	-----------	---------

Data Exchange Example 2

Header	Smith	079801234	John	Trailer
--------	-------	-----------	------	---------

## XML – structured data

<b>Person</b> First Name Surname SSN
---

Can be used for  
both example  
data exchanges  
above

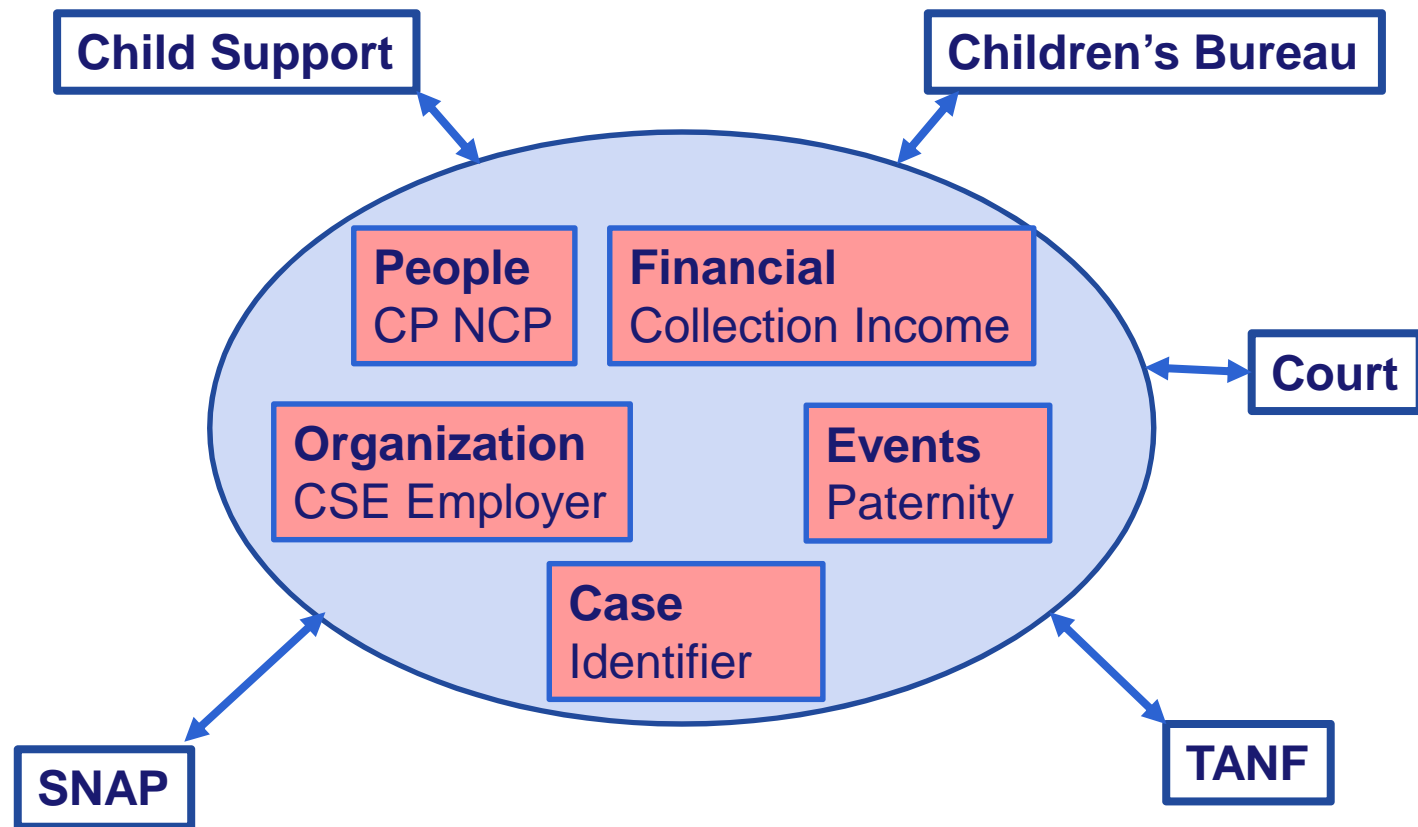
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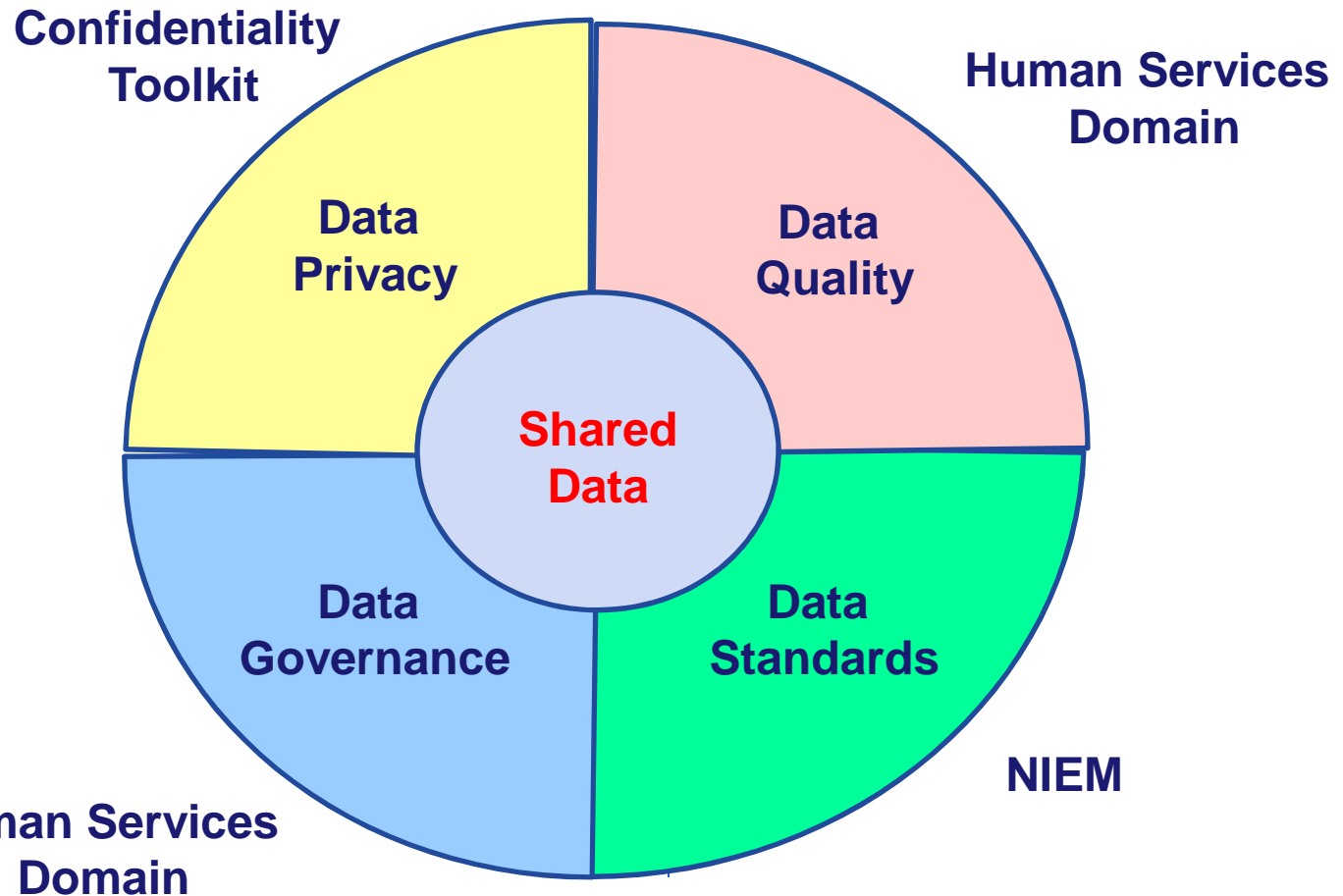


# Sharing Data Objects

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# Data Exchange Environment



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# Interoperability

*“ Interoperability is the ability to make systems and organizations work together (inter-operate).”\**

## **Cross-domain interoperability**

*“Multiple social, organizational, political, legal entities working together for a common interest and/or information exchange.”\**

\*from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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# Opportunities for Sharing Data

## Legislation

- **Child Welfare - PL 112-34**

*Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011*

- **TANF - PL 112-96**

*Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012*

- **SNAP – PL 113-79**

*The Agriculture Act of 2014*

- **CSE – PL 113-183**

*Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014*

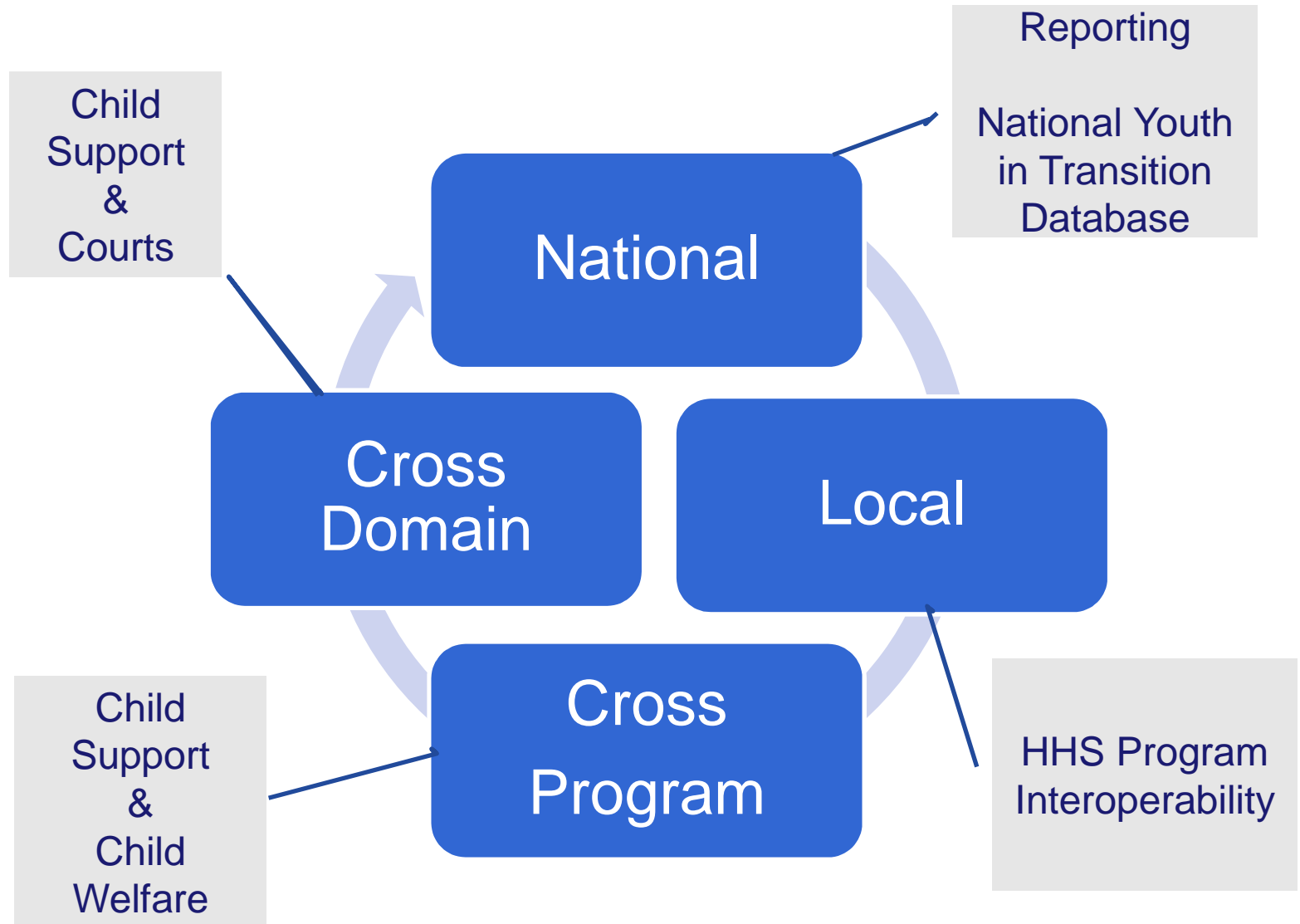
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# Opportunities for Sharing Data

- ❖ System improvements
  - Data standards
  - Data quality
  - Data governance
  
- ❖ Program improvements
  - Service delivery
  - Eligibility
  - Fraud

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# Communities for Sharing Data



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# Reasons for Sharing Data

There are three distinct reasons for sharing information, all of which are essential for an effective and efficient service system:

1. Individual case planning and decision-making;
2. Policy, including program development and review; and,
3. Program evaluation, performance measurement, and research.

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# Confidentiality Toolkit

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# Confidentiality Toolkit Components

❖ Legal

❖ Policy

❖ Staff Development

❖ Participation

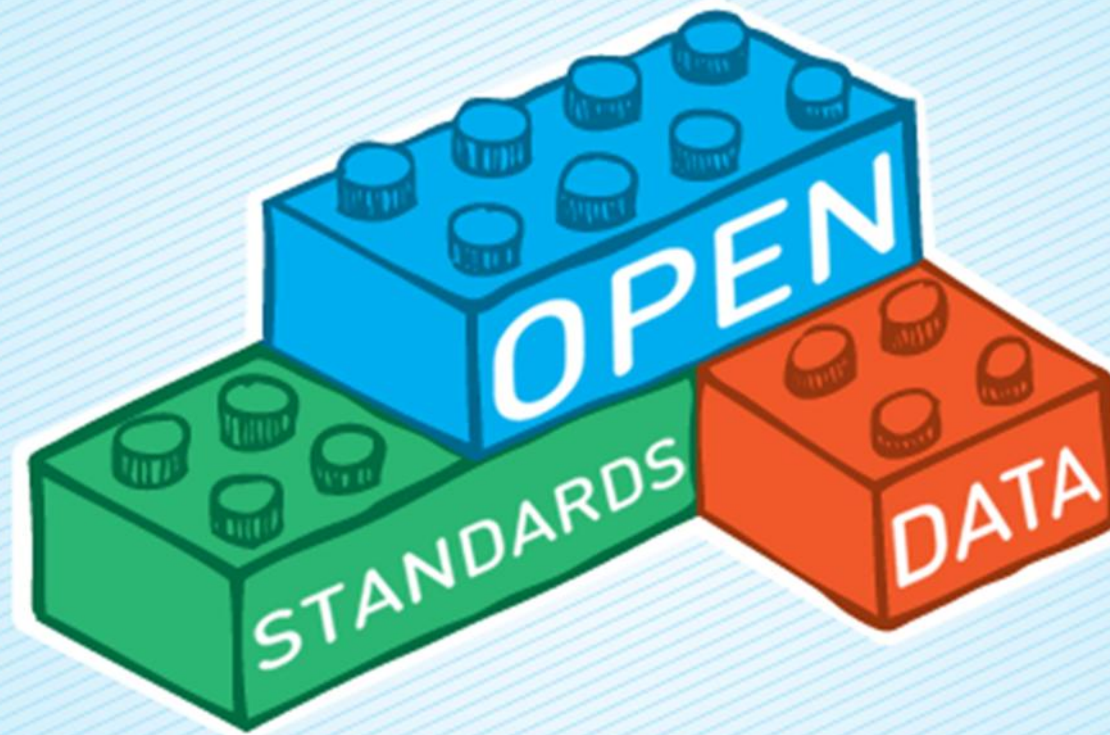
❖ Technology

❖ Operationalization

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# National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)

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# Communications & Collaboration through Data

## Syntactic interoperability

*“If two or more systems are capable of communicating and exchanging data, they are exhibiting syntactic interoperability. Specified data formats, communication protocols and the like are fundamental. **XML** or SQL standards are among the tools of syntactic interoperability”*

## Semantic interoperability

*“Beyond the ability of two or more computer systems to exchange information, semantic interoperability is the ability to automatically interpret the information exchanged meaningfully and accurately in order to produce useful results as defined by the end users of both systems. To achieve semantic interoperability, both sides must refer to a common information exchange reference model. The content of the information exchange requests are unambiguously defined: what is **sent is the same as what is understood.**”*

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# NIEM Human Services Domain

Human Services Domain **Communities of Interest (COI)** are participants representing federal, state, local, and tribal human services groups or communities who provide the breadth and depth of knowledge and opportunities to develop seamless data exchanges.

**Key Participating Organizations** are management level resources from state, local, and tribal governments, and federal human service program offices, plus representation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Food and Nutritional Services/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (FNS/SNAP).

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# Human Services Domain Resources

- ❖ Human Services Community of Interest
  - Collaboration
- ❖ IEPD Development Environment
- ❖ Guidelines:
  - Data Element Naming
  - Data Definitions
  - Data Harmonization
  - Data Quality
  - Data Governance

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# Roadmap to Sharing Data

## ❖ Legacy Data Exchanges

Batch & flat file  
Interactive

## ❖ New Systems

Data model design considerations

## ❖ Inter-program Data Sharing

Identification  
Eligibility

## ❖ State-to-Federal Reporting

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# Tools and Techniques for Sharing Data

## Planning

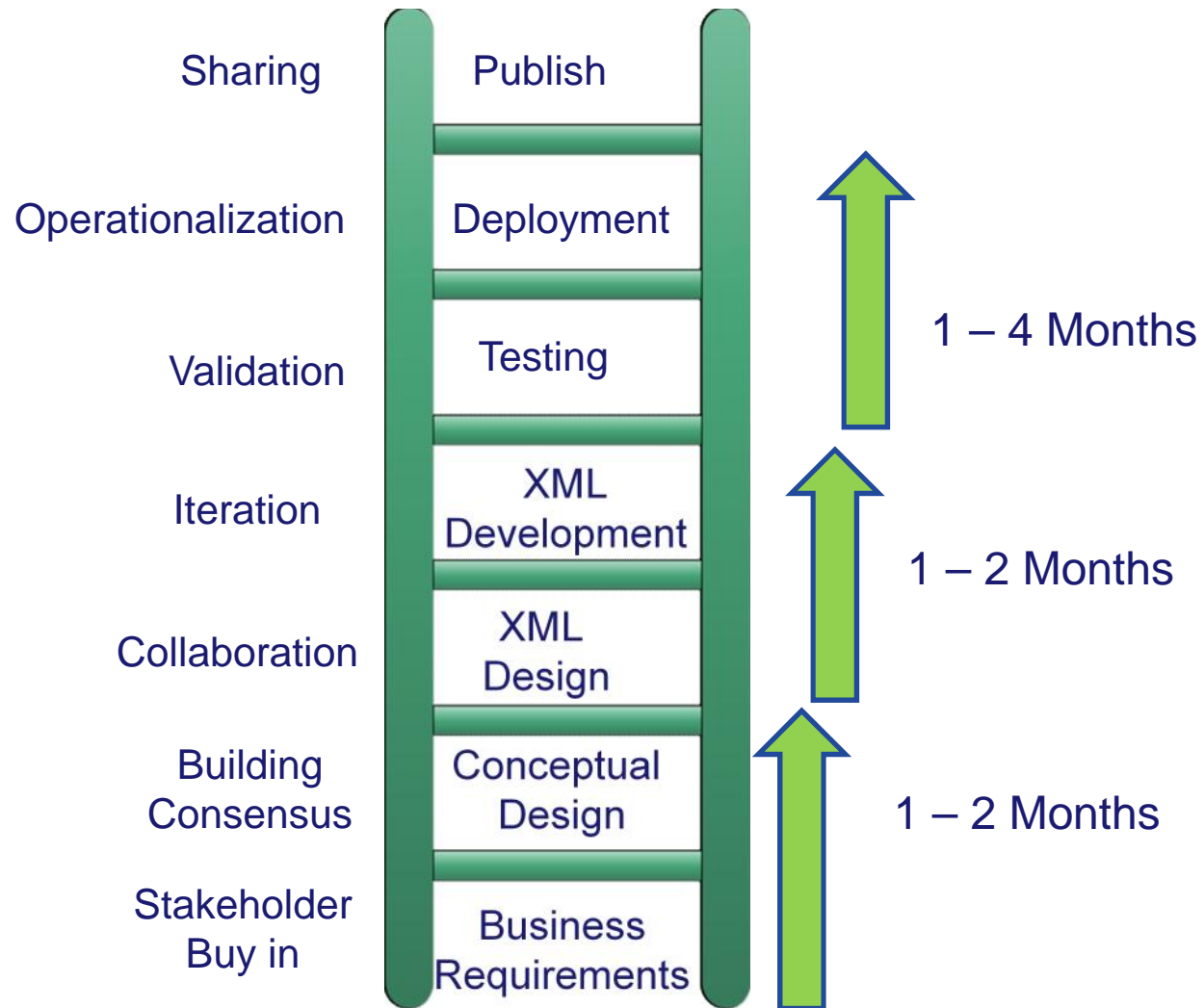
- ❖ Business case
  - Privacy – Confidentiality Toolkit
  - Data Governance – Human Services Domain
  - Data Quality – Human Services Domain
  - Data Standards - NIEM
- ❖ Design – NIEM
- ❖ Development – OCSE IEPD Development Environment
- ❖ Deployment – IEPD publication

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# Data Sharing Planning Outline



## Socialization



# Getting Started

## ❖ Learning

- Interoperability

- Confidentiality toolkit
- National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)

## ❖ Collaborate

- NIEM Human Services Domain

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# Lessons Learned Success Criteria

- ✓ Marketing
- ✓ Stakeholder participation
  - ✓ Legal
  - ✓ Policy
  - ✓ Administration
  - ✓ Technology
  - ✓ Operations
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Education & Training

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# References

## **ACF Interoperability Initiative Website:**

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/initiatives-priorities/interoperability>

## **NIEM Human Services Domain:**

<https://www.niem.gov/communities/emc/hs/Pages/about-hs.aspx>

## **Contact ACF's Interoperability Initiative:**

[Interoperability@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Interoperability@acf.hhs.gov)

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