


RECAPTURE THE SWALE

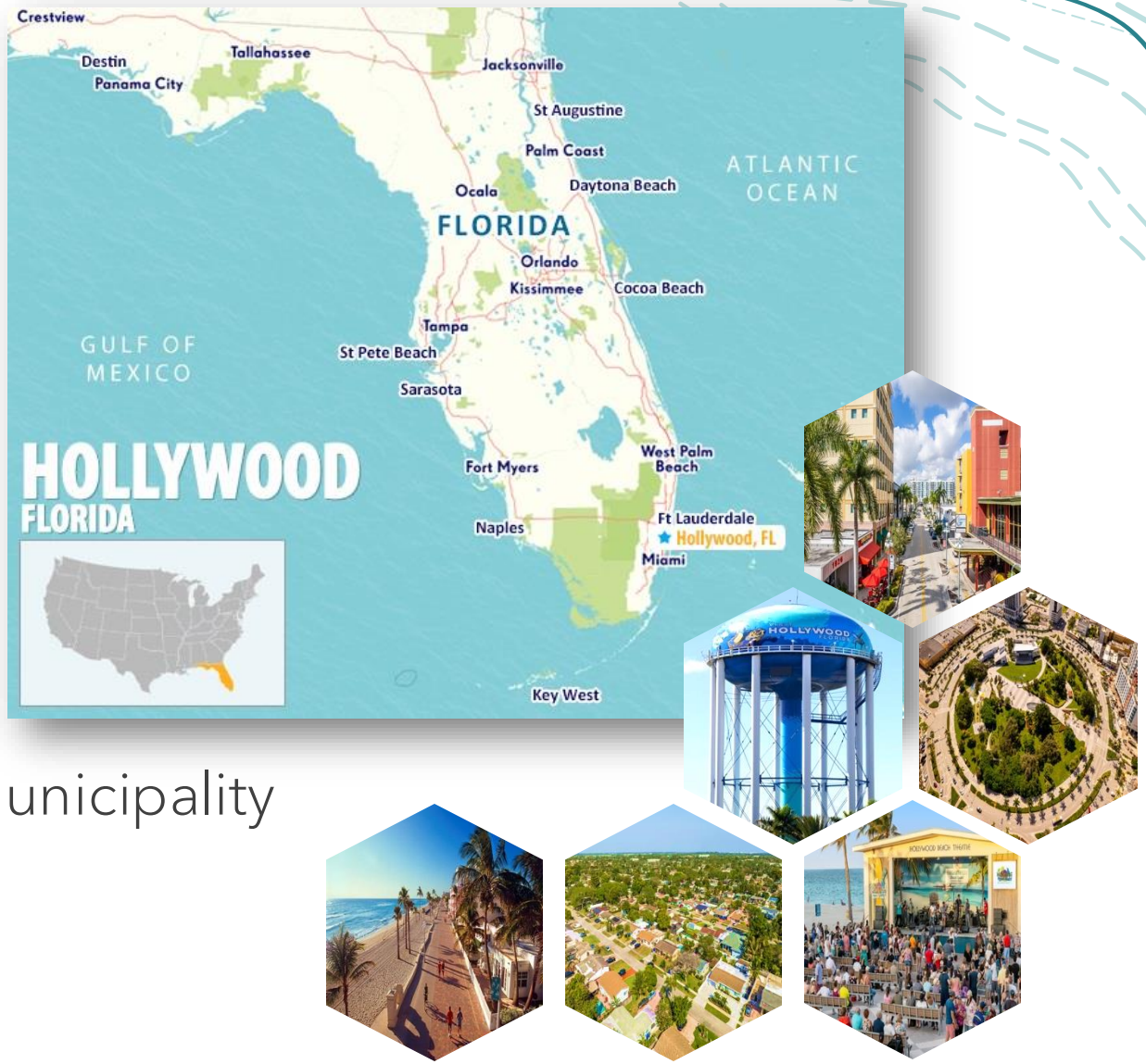
A Resilient Florida Implementation Grant-funded Pilot Program

Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Workshop
October 6, 2025

ABOUT US

City of Hollywood

- Established November 1925
- Coastal beachfront community
- 30 square miles
- 153,000 residents
- 10,000+ companies
- Broward County's third-largest municipality



ABOUT US

Department of Public Utilities

- Mission: To deliver reliable, high-quality drinking water to Hollywood residents and customers across our service area, and to collect, treat, and manage wastewater and stormwater responsibly – protecting public health and the environment, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- 225+ staff specializing in engineering, science, finance, customer service, and various other disciplines
- Operations include Water, Wastewater & Stormwater services

Water

- 1 water treatment plants
- 22 raw water wells
- 550 miles of water mains
- 2, 800+ fire hydrants
- 23.8 million gallons of drinking water produced daily

Wastewater

- 1 wastewater treatment plant
  - ➔Southern Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant provides wholesale services to regional partners: Broward County, City of Dania Beach, City of Hallandale Beach, City of Miramar, Town of Pembroke Park, City of Pembroke Pines
- 85 sewer lift stations
- 268 miles of sanitary sewer
- 51,000 manholes
- 42 million gallons of wastewater treated daily, with capacity for 55.5 million

Stormwater

- 128 miles of storm drains
- 4480 catch basins
- 10 pump stations
- 16 drainage auxiliary pumps
- 12 drainage wells
- 379 outfall pipes

CITY OF HOLLYWOOD'S **RECAPTURE THE SWALE** PROGRAM

- ✓ **Reduce Flooding Citywide**
- ✓ **Improve Water Quality**
- ✓ **Recharge the Aquifer**
- ✓ **Reduce Heat Footprint**
- ✓ **Beautify the City**
- ✓ **Promote Use of Green Infrastructure**

- ▶ Designed to recapture swales that are currently ineffective – cost-effective nature-based stormwater solution
- ▶ Started with pilot program
- ▶ Plan to expand Citywide
- ▶ Stacked grants to support the program.

DID YOU KNOW...

The City of Hollywood is in the process of restoring swales throughout the City through the Recapture the Swale program. Swales are a key component of the stormwater management system that reduce flooding and improve water quality.

These sloped grassy areas between roads, sidewalks, and homes are part of our green infrastructure solutions that beautify the City and improve the City's quality of life. This program is partly funded by a grant through the Resilient Florida Grant Program.

BENEFITS OF SWALES

- Swales filter runoff pollutants from entering aquifers and our nearby waterways as swales filter stormwater through layers of plant roots, soil, and rocks.
- Well-maintained swales provide temporary rainwater storage and help reduce flooding.

Help Protect Hollywood's Water Quality...

1. Minimize use of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. This helps prevent algae blooms, fish kills, loss of native species, and other water quality problems.
2. Prevent oil, grease, and other toxic chemicals from entering the storm systems by properly maintaining cars, boats, lawnmowers, and other mechanical equipment.
3. Mulch or bag lawn clippings, leaves, and other organic debris to avoid storm drain clogs or input to bodies of water.
4. Pick up pet waste. Pet waste carries harmful bacteria.
5. Do not feed birds or other wildlife bread or other human food, especially near the beach or other body of water. Feeding birds is harmful to their health and can lead to unnatural flocking behavior. Feeding birds also increases bird droppings and bacteria input that has been directly linked to beach advisories (closures).

CONTACT US

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T:(954) 967-4455
W:hollywoodfl.org/67/Public-Utilities

Report it with Hollywood Connect
www.hollywoodfl.org/744/Hollywood-Connect

For weekends, after hours or holidays, please call:
T:(954) 967-HELP (4357)

Recapture the Swale

Example of a healthy swale

Swales are natural structures protecting our waterways from pollutants and neighborhoods from flooding!

CITY OF Hollywood FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

HOW TO MAINTAIN SWALES - THE DO'S AND DONT'S

- Mow your swale periodically and maintain the grass no shorter than 3 to 6 inches.
- Allow for ponding in swales. The water will slowly evaporate and filter down into the ground.
- Be a good neighbor and share with others the importance of protecting swales.

- Avoid parking cars or paving swales. This compacts the soil, limiting their ability to filter pollutants and absorb and drain rainwater.
- Keep swales free of bulk trash, dead leaves, or yard clippings. This may clog storm drains located in swales and induce pollution.
- Do not fill or flatten the swale and do not plant new vegetation, unless authorized by the City, as it may obstruct the water flow and make swales less effective.

Example of a mowed swale

Example of a damaged swale by parking

Example of a healthy swale

Example of a damaged swale due to excessive parking

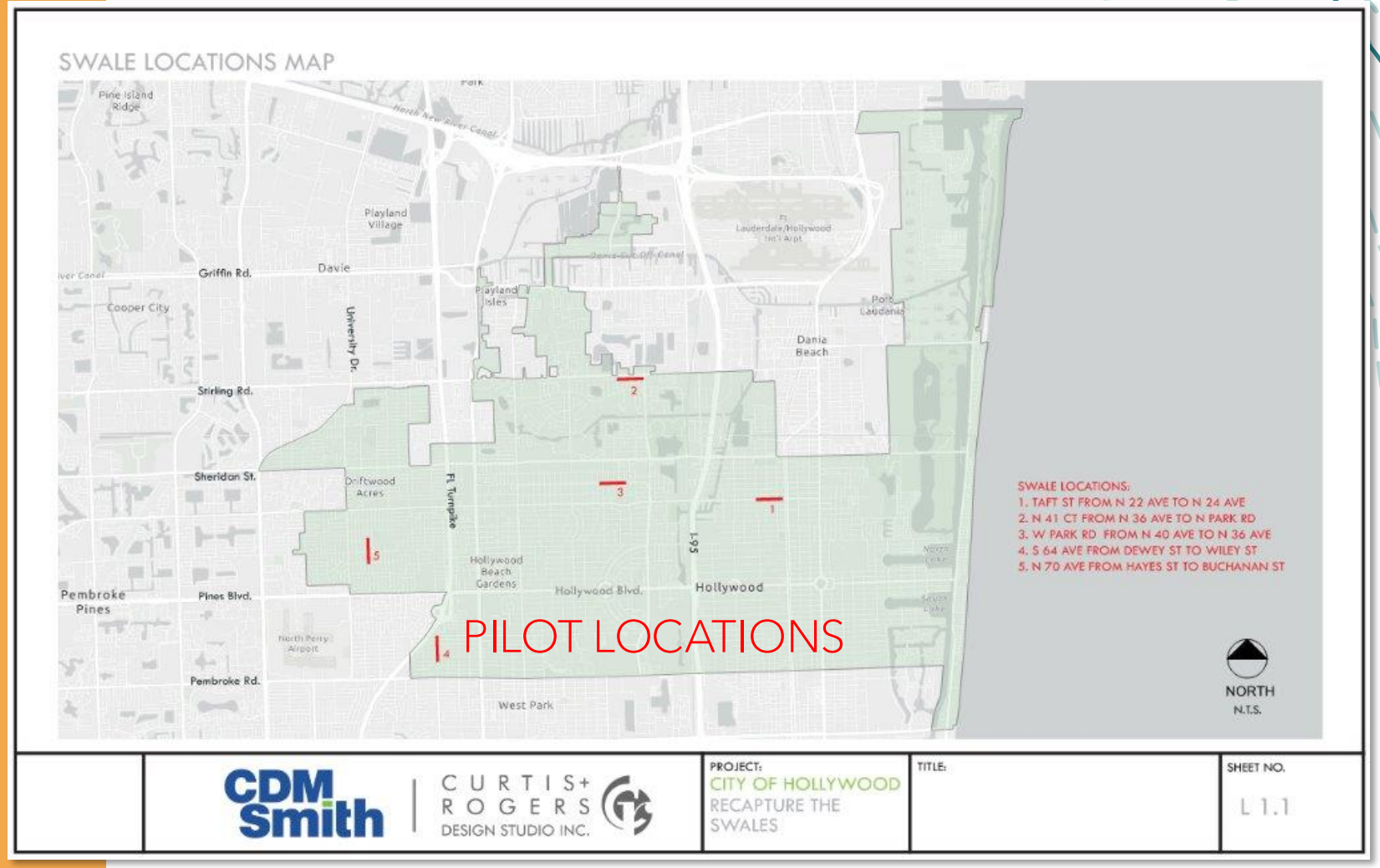
2 Ponding Water is water that remains stagnant for more than 48 hours or longer.

3 Underground drain systems are a series of interconnected pipes and related infrastructure underground that transport stormwater from drains to outfalls to receiving water bodies.

Vin Morello, Director - Department of Public Utilities

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Grant Pilot Program (installation and monitoring)
- Public Awareness & Educational Campaigns
- Increased Swale Maintenance
- Creation & Restoration of Swales Citywide
- Enforcement of City Codes (regulating the activities permitted in the swale areas)

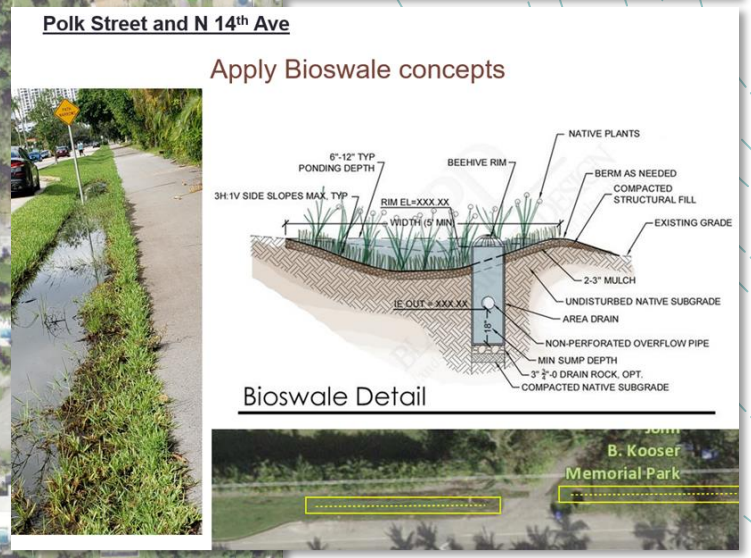


CITYWIDE PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Citywide existing swales have been identified & digitized into a GIS layer
- Location, depth, area, linear feet & volume estimates for analysis
- Modeled the water quality storm pre-post swale restoration
- First 5 of 15 swale projects has been installed

Citywide Swales Collectively Will Provide…

- ✓ Over 100 Acre Feet of Water Storage / Retention Volume
- ✓ 834,000 L.F. of Swale Exists in the City (196 Miles!)
- ✓ Equivalent Treatment of Approximately 180 Acres of Impervious Area
- ✓ Remove & Treat Approximately 16.5 Million Gallons of Runoff From the Primary Stormwater Management System That Would Have to be Treated by Other Means



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & GRANT APPLICATION

Understand grant selection criteria.

- Scoring should be your guide in project development or selection.

Really answer the questions.

- Make sure you reach the questions carefully & answer well.

Think about costs three year from now – don't just budget for today.

- If you ask a consultant for a cost letter, make sure they understand to consider inflation.

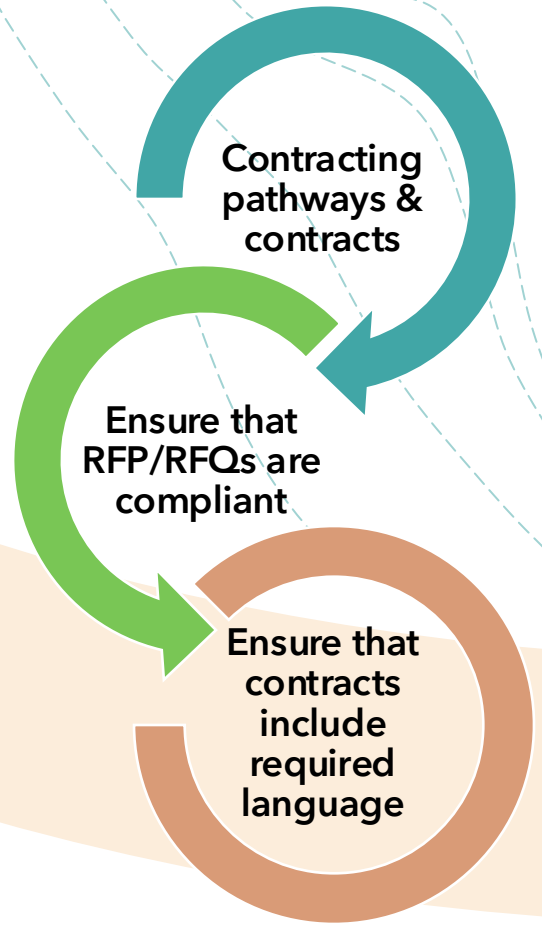
THE GRANT AGREEMENT IS A CONTRACT

Make sure you review the agreement in detail.

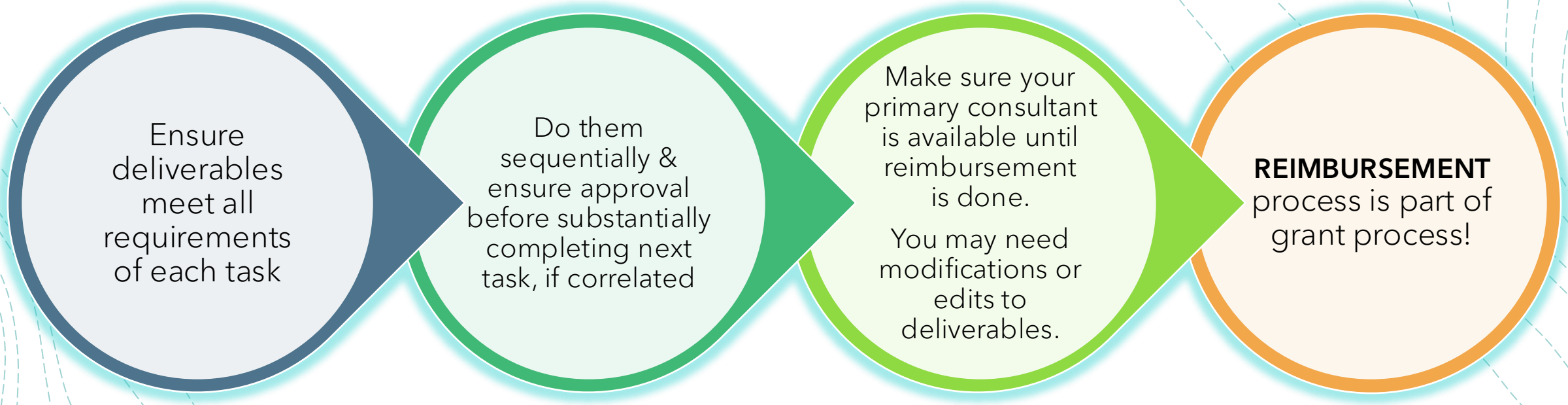
- This is an essential and often overlooked portion of the process because staff are anxious to get it signed.

Make sure technical experts are involved in the project scoping.

- It will make or break a project.

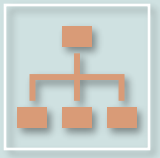


IDENTIFY GRANT COMPLIANCE LEAD



SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED

Confirm Eligibility Early
Clarify eligible activities with the funder upfront, especially when separating planning from construction.



Define Roles Clearly
Assign writing, review, and approval responsibilities early to streamline coordination.

Track Narrative Requirements
Use a checklist or tracker to ensure all criteria are addressed without redundancy.

Build in Review Time
Leave space for internal feedback and alignment across departments.

Engage Partners Early
Coordinate with collaborators during scoping to strengthen the proposal.

QUESTIONS?