



Modernizing the Merit Review Report

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Modernizing the Merit Review Report

CHALLENGE

- Data are not interactive
- Report is of limited usefulness because people are unaware of its existence
- Current structure is outdated: large tables of data, many of which lack appropriate context

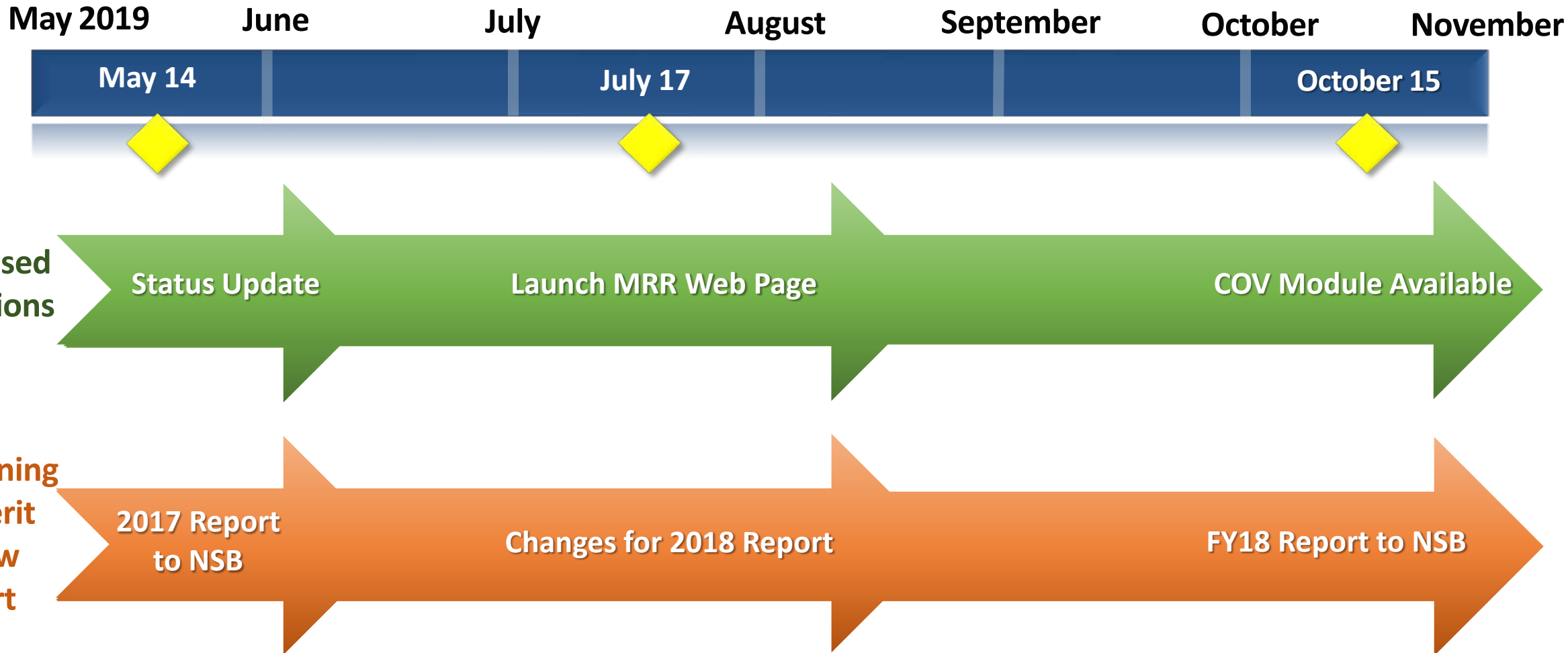
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GOALS

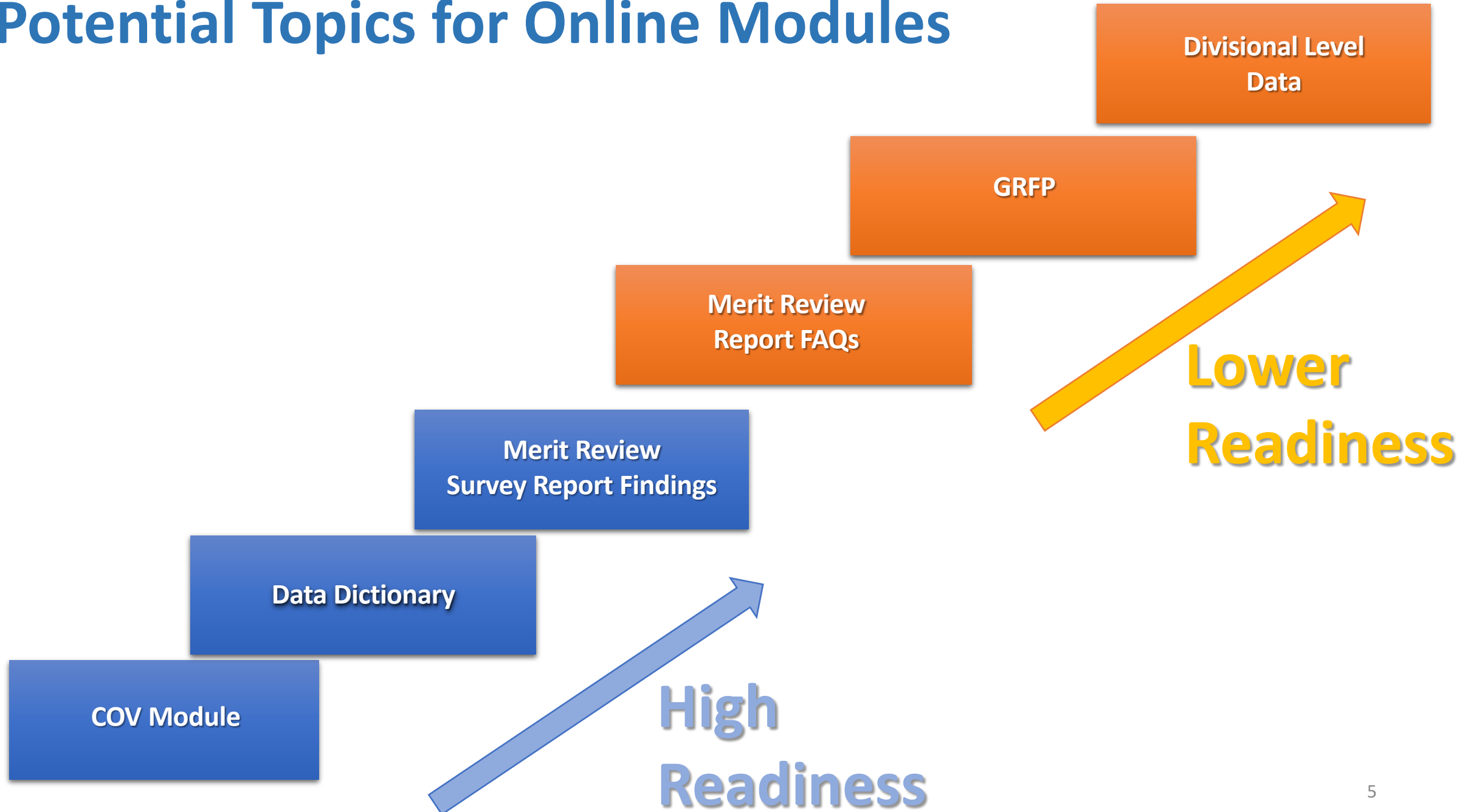
- Improve usability through online access to interactive data, enabling custom reports and visualizations
- Provide context-rich data sets in thematic online modules
- Develop a concise downloadable report with key information updated annually

Modernizing the Merit Review Report

TIMELINE



Potential Topics for Online Modules



Home page: the NSF Merit Review Ecosystem

GENERAL INFORMATION

Are you interested in NSF's Merit Review process?

START

NSF's MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Policies and legislation

START

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Publications

START

OVERSIGHT OF THE MERIT REVIEW PROCESS

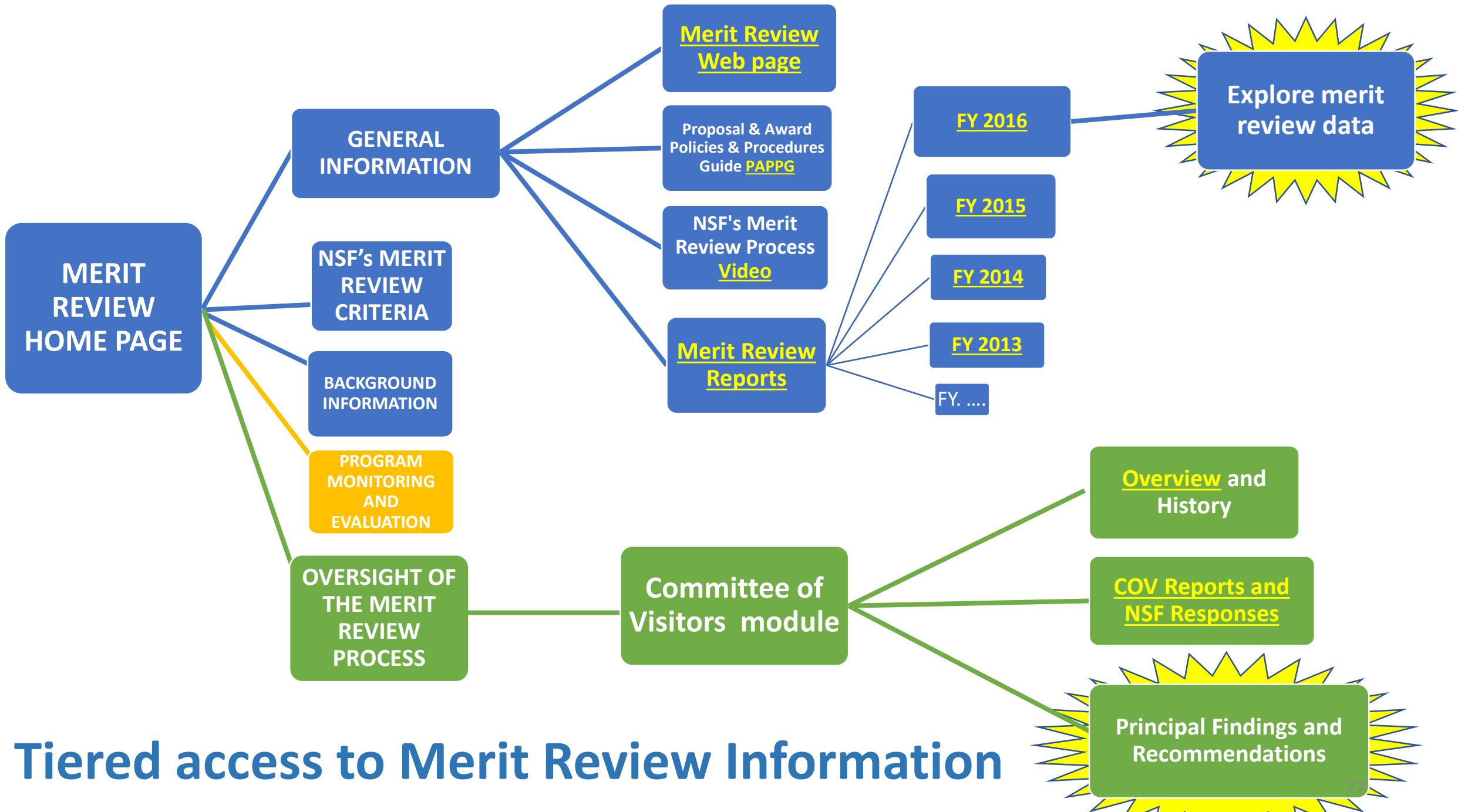
External oversight and advisory mechanisms

START

PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Evaluation and Assessment

START



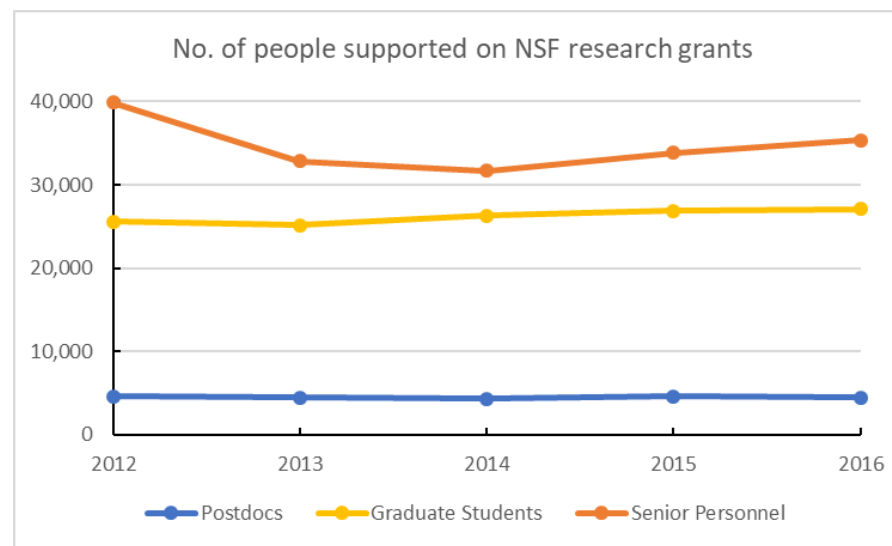
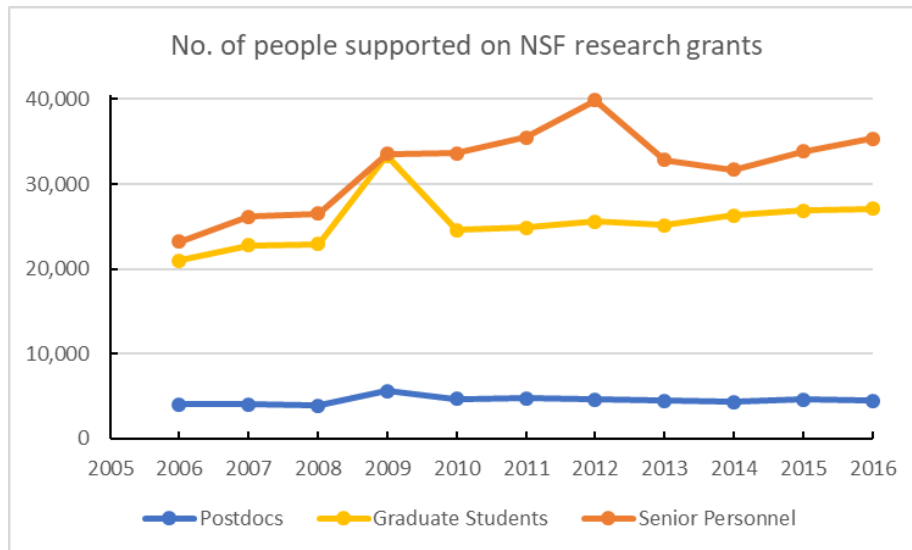
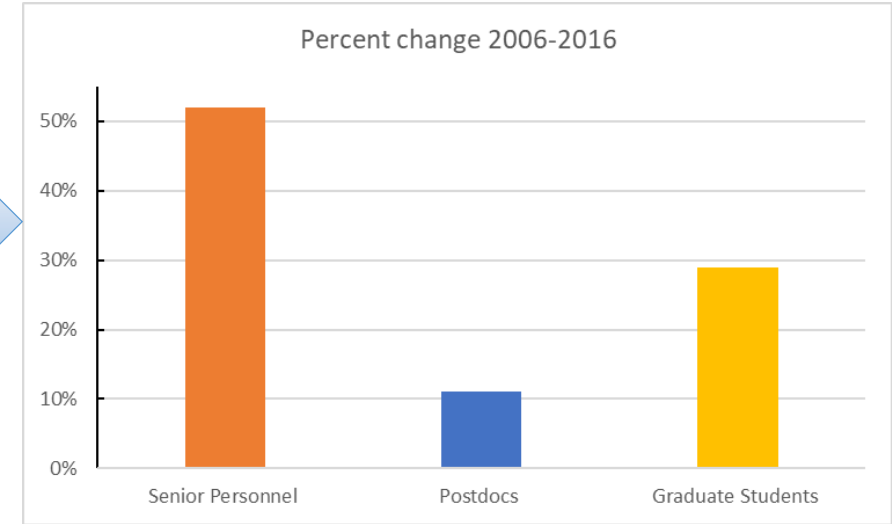
Tiered access to Merit Review Information

Explore Merit Review Data: Example

2016 Merit Review Report Table 14

Number of People Supported on NSF Research Grants, by Recipient Type												
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change, 2006 - 2016
Senior Personnel	23,186	26,176	26,494	33,536	33,650	35,523	39,862	32,829	31,650	33,831	35,326	52%
Postdocs	4,023	4,034	3,909	5,580	4,653	4,751	4,596	4,447	4,286	4,586	4,460	11%
Graduate Students	20,949	22,777	22,936	33,371	24,554	24,855	25,550	25,161	26,317	26,882	27,099	29%

Source: NSF Enterprise Information System, 10/01/16.



	5-yr average	Percent
Senior Personnel	34,700	53%
Postdocs	4,475	7%
Graduate Students	26,202	40%
Total	65,376	100%

COV Principal Findings & Recommendations: Example

The merit review process is working well

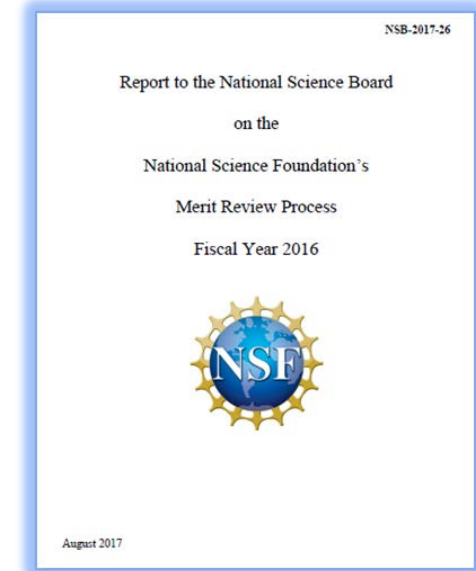
- Review methods are appropriate
- Documentation provides rationale for decisions
- COIs are appropriately addressed
- Award portfolios are balanced

Two consistent issues noted:

- Lack of demographic data for reviewers
NSF Response: outreach and SINGLE ID
- Broader Impacts criterion not fully addressed in many reviews
NSF Response: Merit Review orientations, video

FY 2017 Merit Review Report

- **Major finding:** Merit review process is stable
 - Overall proposal numbers and funding rates are similar for FY 2015 – FY 2017
 - Adjusted for inflation, the FY 2017 mean annualized research award is similar to FY 2007.
- **Major changes to the Report:**
 - Format - slimmed down; data on research grants moved to front of Report



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Questions?