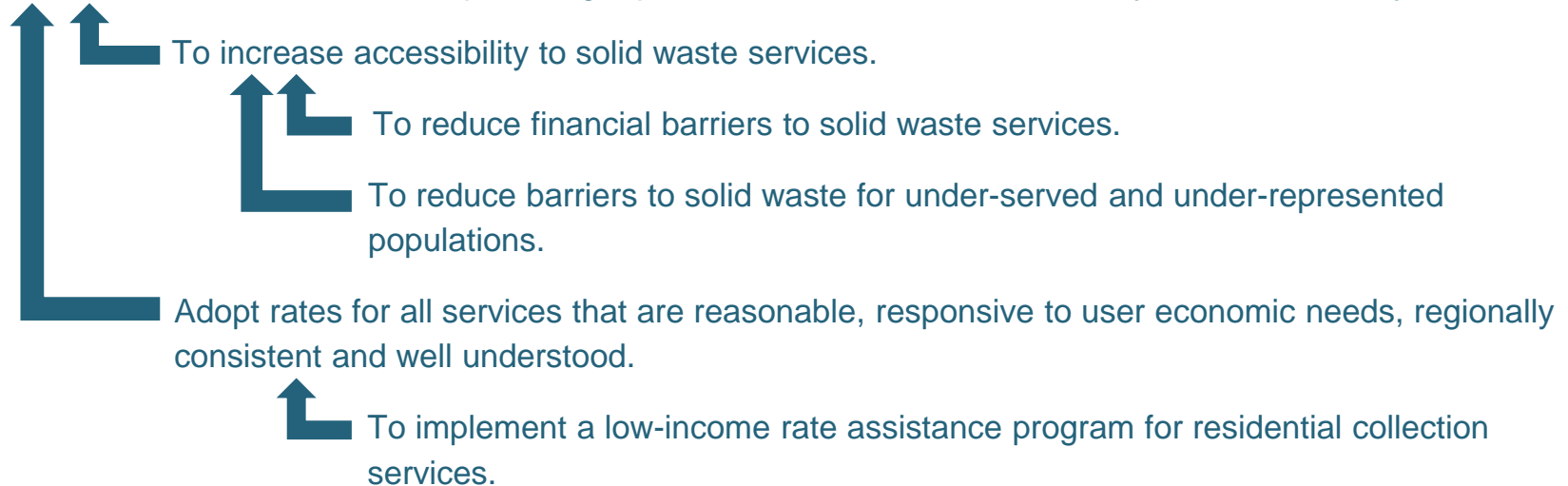# Washington County Solid Waste Rate Equity Analysis

GRAC Presentation – October 14, 2021

Objectives

To move the needle forward in providing equitable solid waste service delivery to the community.

To increase accessibility to solid waste services.

To reduce financial barriers to solid waste services.

To reduce barriers to solid waste for under-served and under-represented populations.

Adopt rates for all services that are reasonable, responsive to user economic needs, regionally consistent and well understood.

To implement a low-income rate assistance program for residential collection services.
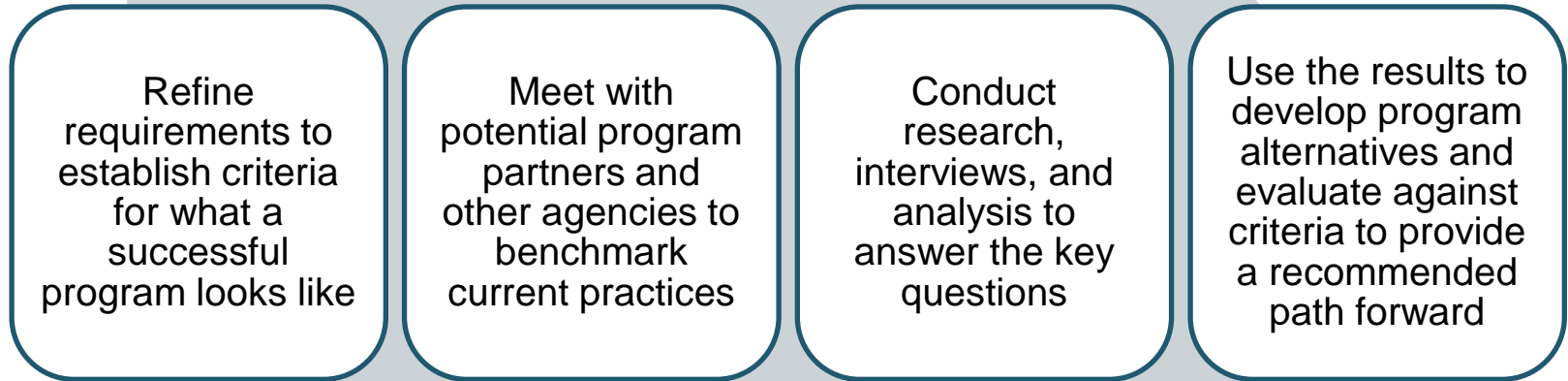
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Progress To-Date

+ Met with Washington County Solid Waste program staff, Community Action, and representatives from the Haulers Association to define the objectives for the project and compile requirements to successfully implement a *sustainable*, *equitable,* and *effective* solid waste assistance program.

+ Conducted a work session with Washington County Solid Waste program staff to validate what we heard and identify key questions that should be addressed in the development of the program.

Key Questions

? What amount of financial assistance is "enough" to have a positive impact on eligible participants?

? What is the appropriate balance between value to the community vs. cost impact to rate payers?

? How do we reach the targeted communities and address structural barriers inherent to the current system?

? How do we leverage existing and potential future program partners to increase administrative efficiency and optimize outreach to the targeted communities?

? How can we model the program to be self-funded within the current solid waste collection system?

? What residential collection services should be included? (Basic garbage or to include distance fees, bulky waste pick-up, extra)

Have we missed anything? What else can and should we be focusing on?
How can GRAC support this initiative?

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Next Steps

Refine requirements to establish criteria for what a successful program looks like

Meet with potential program partners and other agencies to benchmark current practices

Conduct research, interviews, and analysis to answer the key questions

Use the results to develop program alternatives and evaluate against criteria to provide a recommended path forward

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THANK YOU!

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