

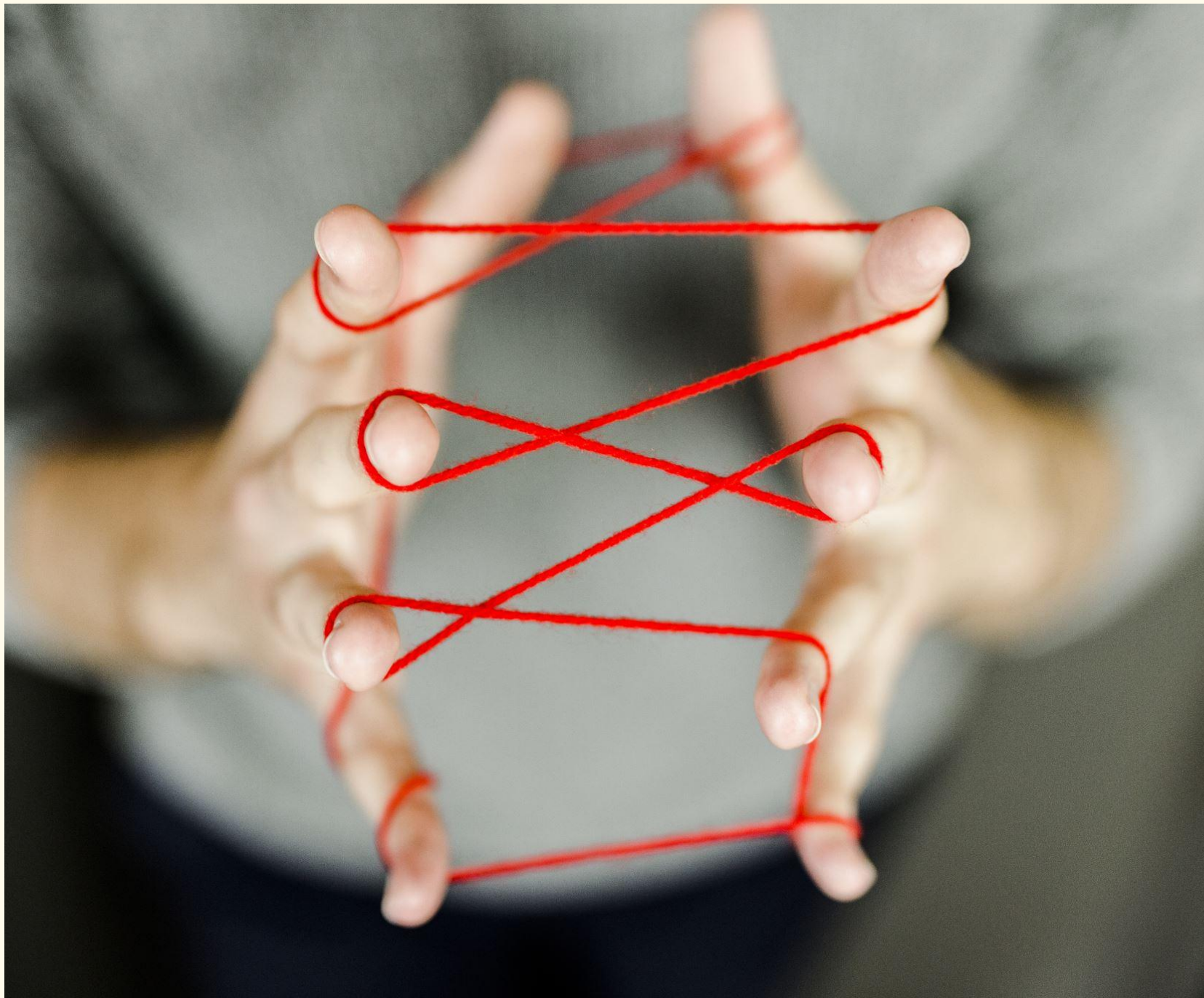


Federal Fund Braiding Blueprint

A Logic Model for Financial Layering



Introduction to Braiding



- The Concept: Braiding involves combining different federal streams to cover gaps in eligibility, timing, or scope.
- The Goal: Moving beyond the limitations of a single funding source.
- Key Principle: Every part of a project must be eligible for the specific grant assigned to it.

Phase 1 – Project Deconstruction

- **Action:** Break your project into its smallest components before looking at funds.
- **The "What" and "Who":** Identify each component and its target population.
- **Financial Scope:** Determine the estimated cost for each individual piece.
 - *Example:* Mental Health Staff (\$80,000) for at-risk youth

Phase 2 – Identifying the Threads

- Inventory: List available potential federal streams.
- Understanding the "Color" of Money: Identify specifically what each stream is for.
- Identifying Constraints: For every source, you must document:
 - Primary Eligible Use.
 - Key Restrictions (The "No").
 - Match Requirements.



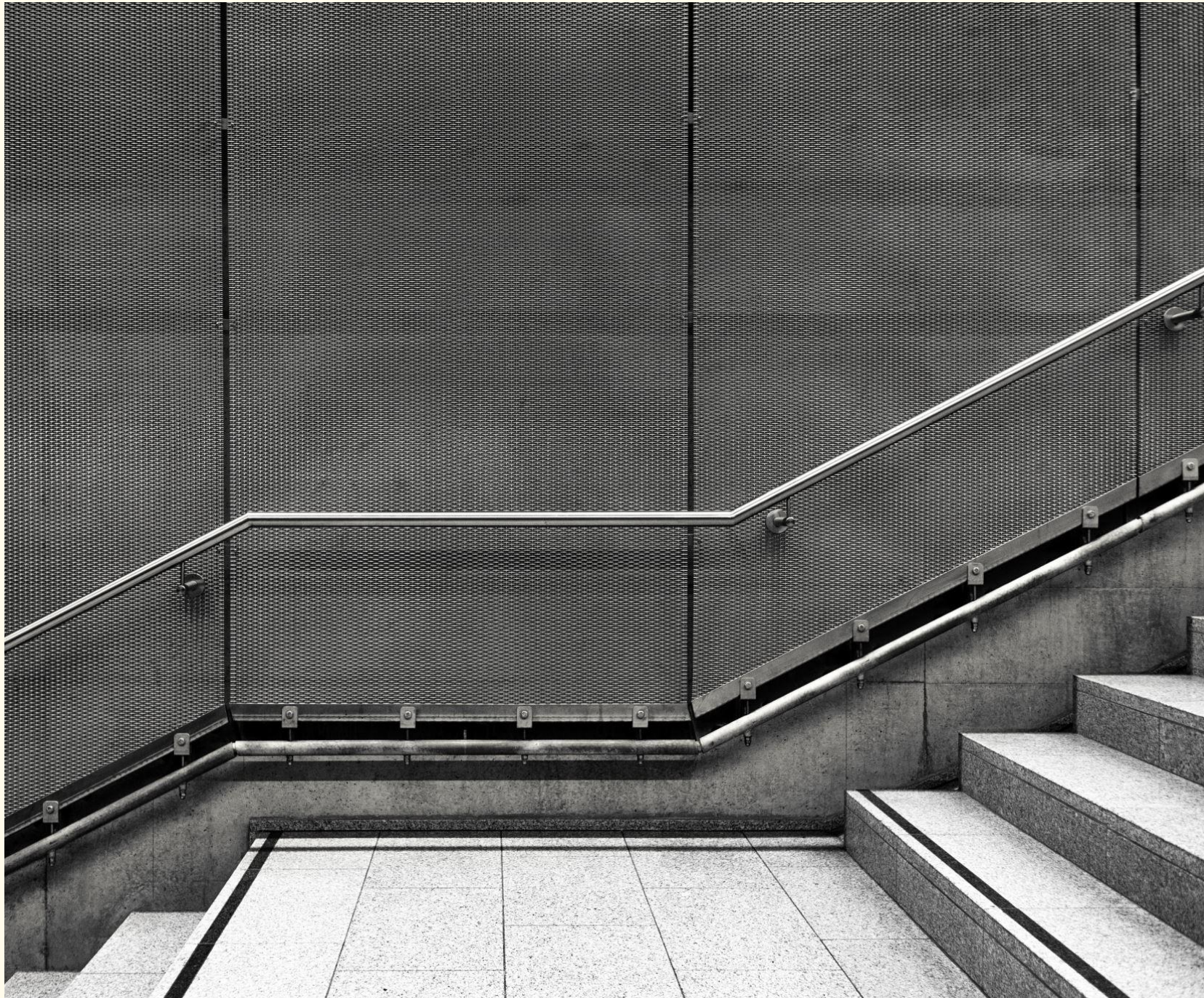
Phase 3 – The Braiding Matrix

- Synthesis:** This is where the actual "braiding" happens.
- Assignment:** Assign each project component to a primary funding source.
- Gap Coverage:** Identify secondary or gap sources where needed.
- Justification:** Document the reasoning for why these specific threads are being braided together

Phase 4 – Compliance & Sustainability (The Stress Test)

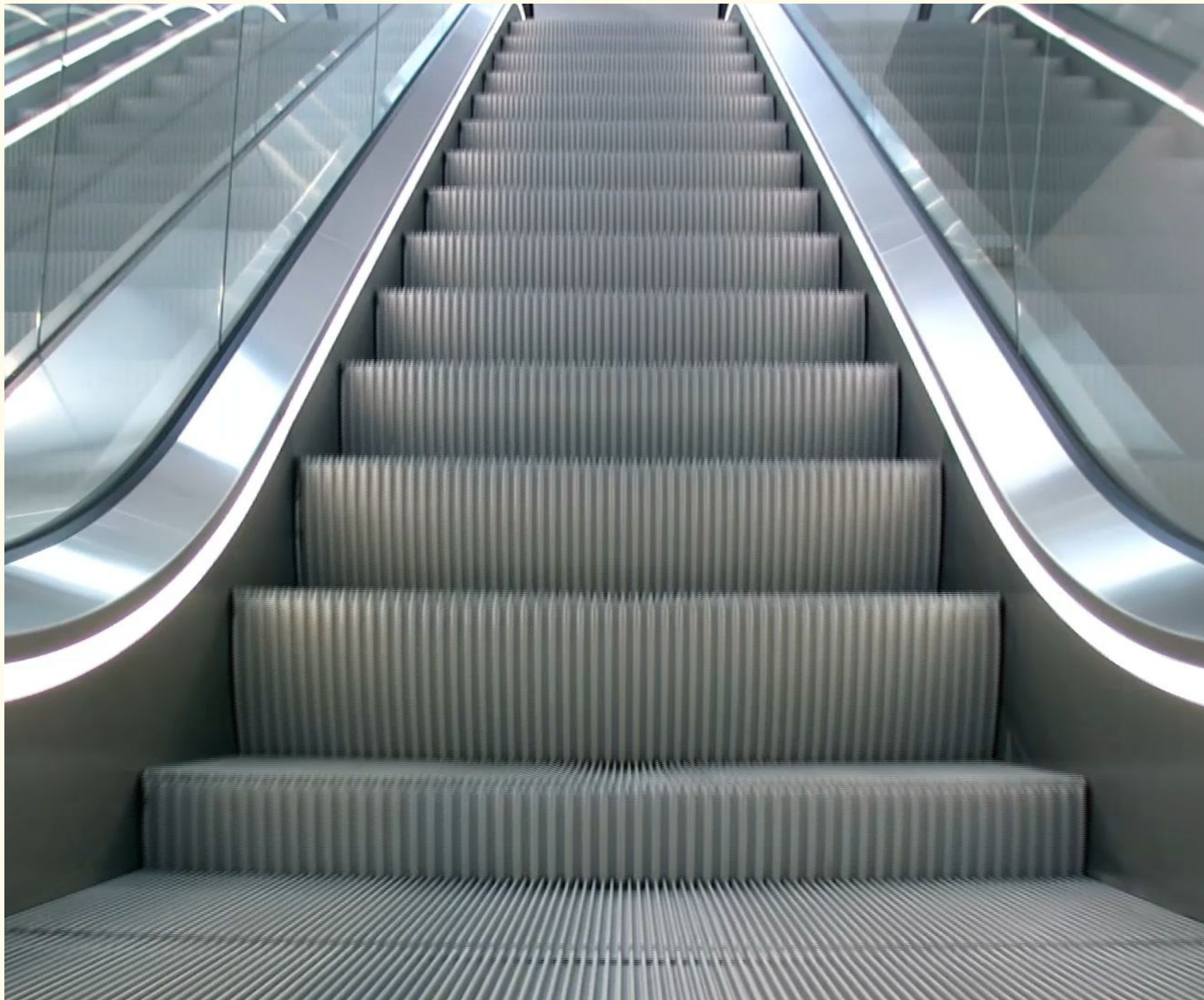
- **Anti-Supplanting:** Can you prove these funds supplement and do not replace existing local/state funds?.
- **Cost Allocation:** How will you track staff time if they are funded by multiple streams? (e.g., Personnel Activity Reports) .
- **Reporting Alignment:** Reconcile different fiscal years and reporting deadlines.
- **The "Cliff" Strategy:** Create a plan for when one-time "stimulus" money ends while "formula" money continues

Phase 5 – The Elevator Pitch to Auditors



- The Goal: Summarize the project and ensure there is no "double-dipping" (charging the same cost to two grants).
- The Pitch Template:
 - "We are utilizing [Stream A] for [Component X] while leveraging [Stream B] for [Component Y]".
- Explain the distinct cost-allocation plan and unit of tracking used to

Conclusion & Next Steps



- Summary: Braiding is a strategic necessity for projects with broad community impact.
- Final Checklist: Ensure all components are eligible, time is tracked, and sustainability is planned.

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