



SPDG Financial Management & Sustainability

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Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. **Prioritize equity.**
2. **Start from within.**
3. **Measure what matters.**
4. **Go local.**
5. **Follow the money.**
6. **Start early.**
7. **Monitor implementation of standards.**
8. **Value people.**
9. **Improve conditions for learning.**
10. **Give students options.**

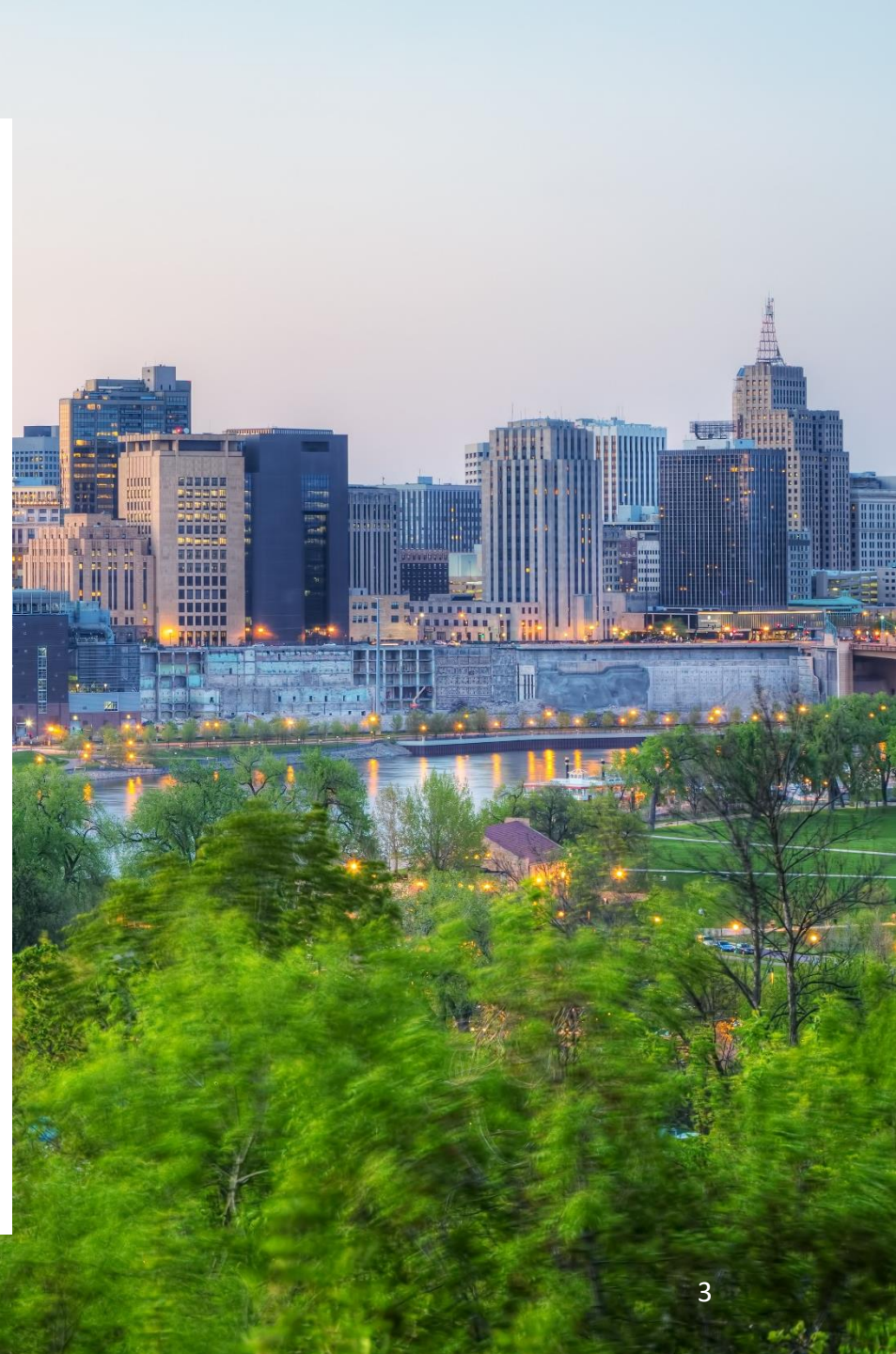


Commitments

Start from within.

For financing to deliver value, the SEA has to manage funds internally with a “value-added” commitment and processes.

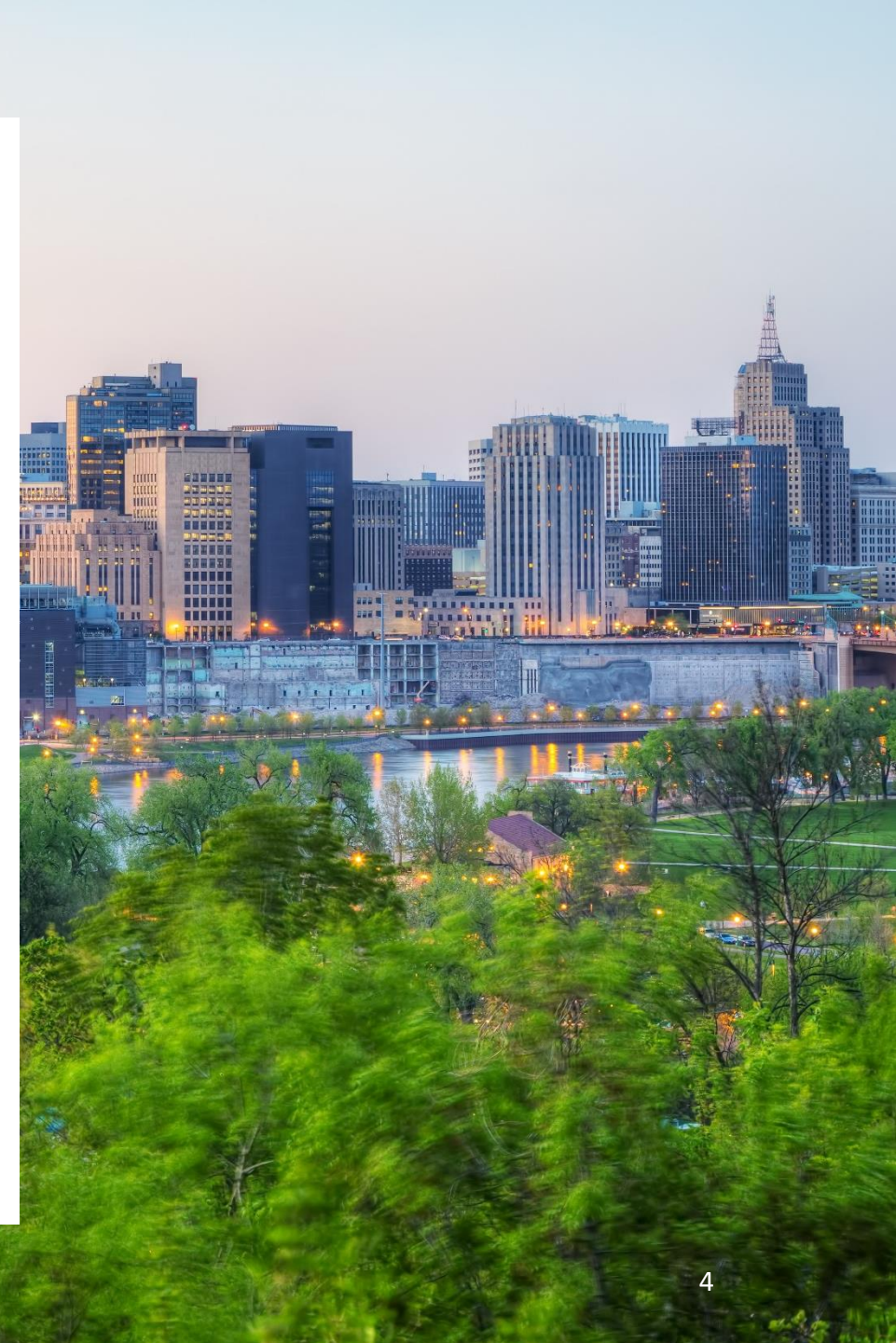
Managing finances should not cost you more than it delivers in terms of value. That’s not sustainable.



Commitments

Measure what matters.

Things like cost-efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and return-on-investment matter for delivering the needed, most, and best value to students, families, and their communities.

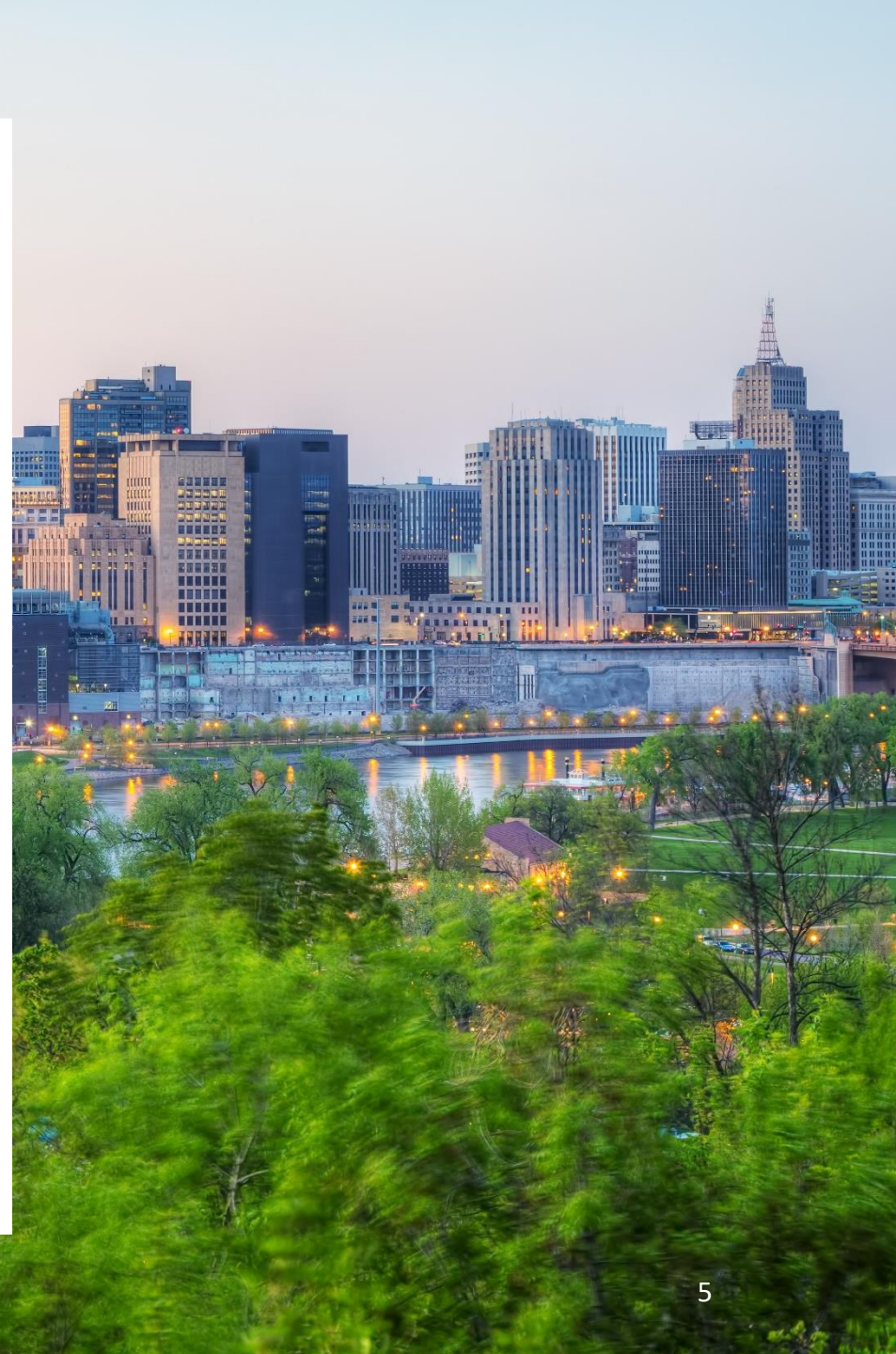


Commitments

Follow the money.

There should be the shortest and most direct line possible from the SEA to delivery of a service or benefit at the LEA level if not even the individual student level.

Know what that line looks like and how much of your fund is making it from start to finish.

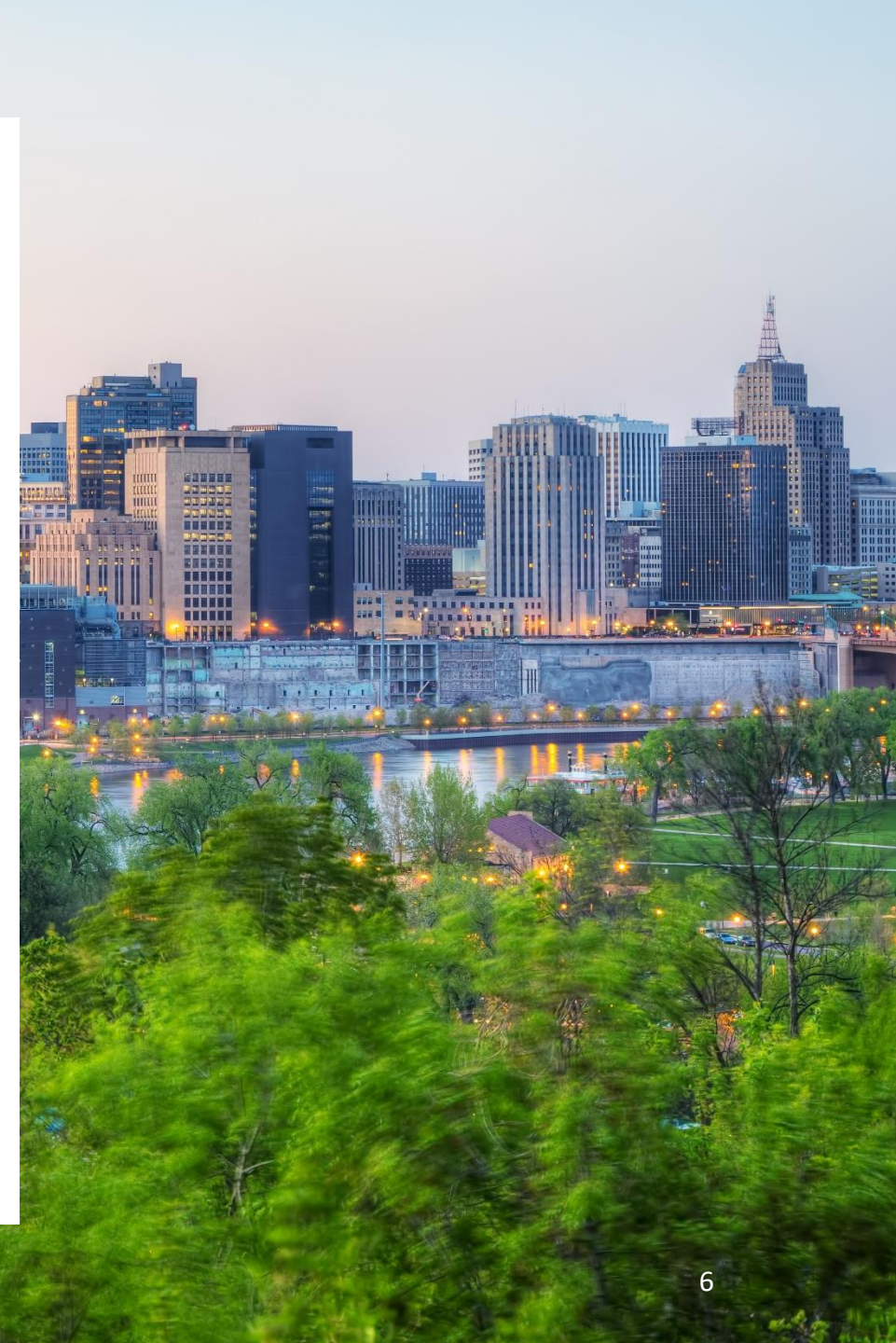


Commitments

Value people.

Always remember that the ultimate purpose of financing must be to deliver the needed, most, and best value to a human being: student, teacher, parent, community member.

Always remember that the success and value delivery of your finance systems and procedures depends on human beings doing their best – value them vigorously.



Commitments

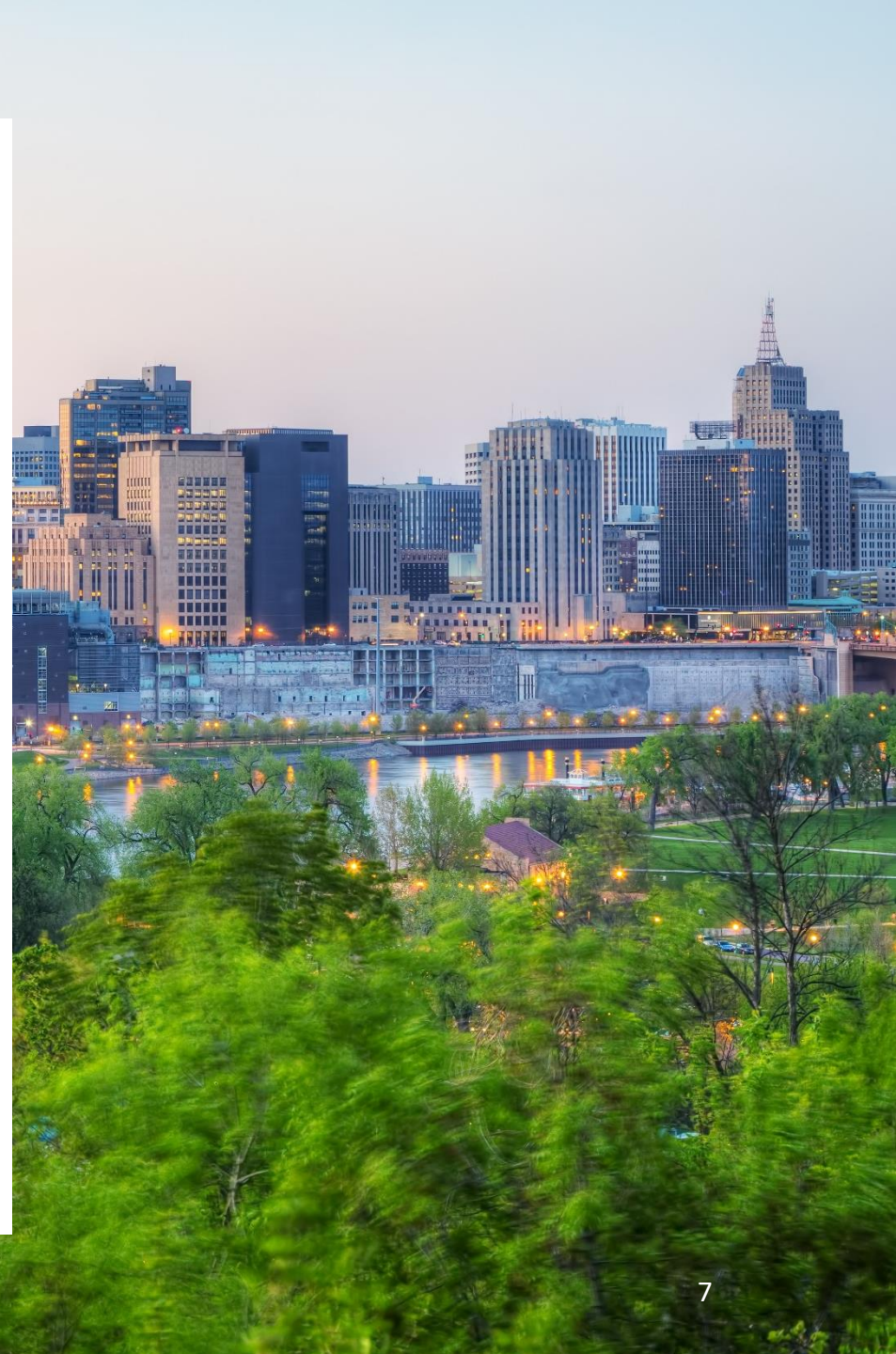
Start from within.

Measure what matters.

Follow the money.

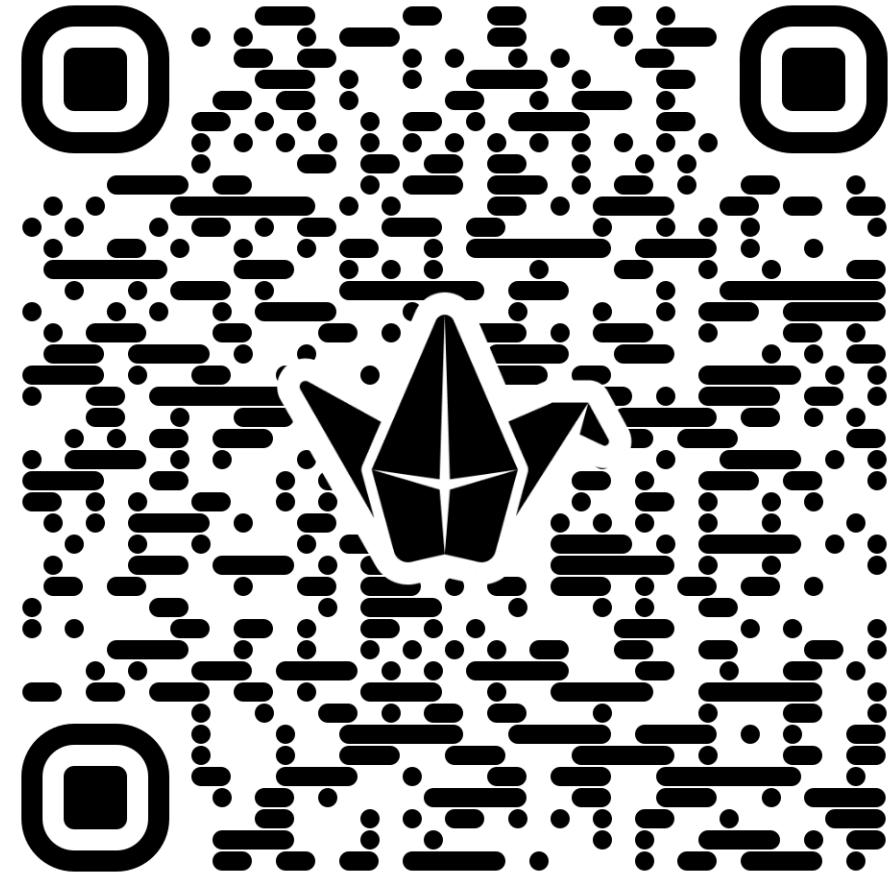
Value people.

... We're working on it!



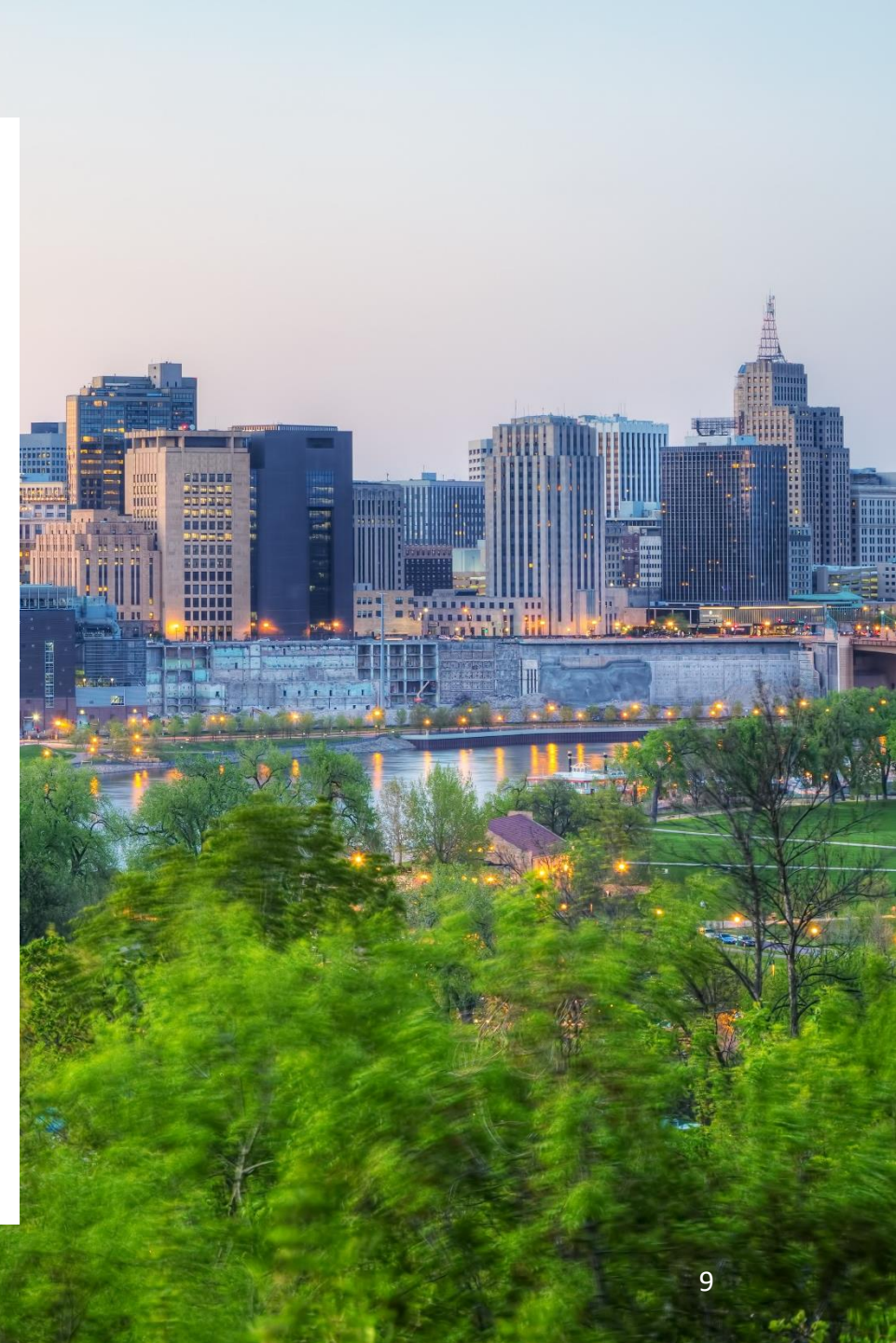
Group Activity #1

- Go to the **Padlet** by using the QR Code or going to <https://padlet.com/thomasdelaney3/spdg-financial-management-sustainability-6zn7xpu3078f9y2>
- **First question** is the **first column** on the Padlet. Use “+” to make a Post-It note with your answer and then drag it to the **first column**.
- “**What are your formal or informal commitments for SPDG financial management?**”



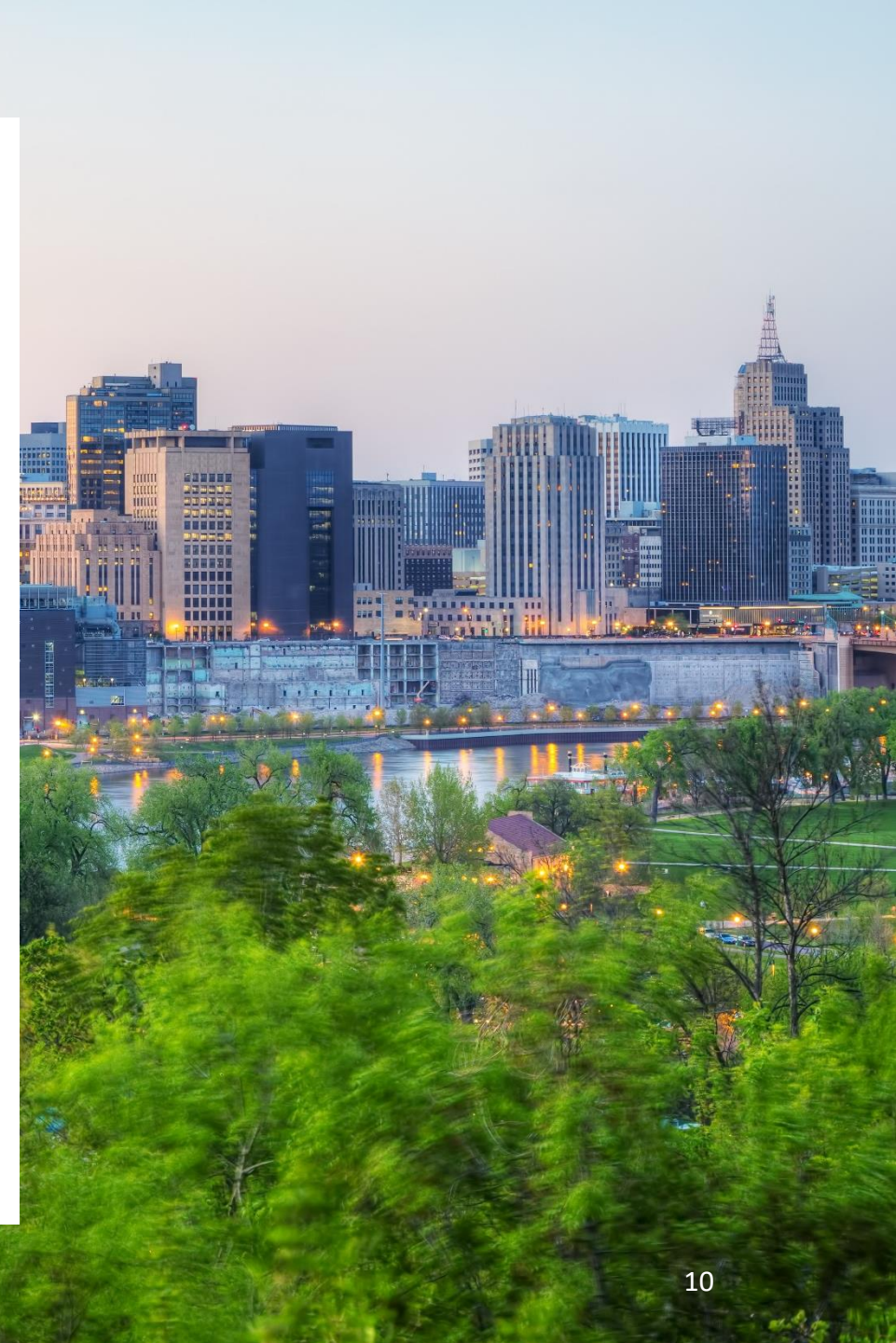
3 Key Challenges of SPDG Financing

1. Integration with SEA internal finance systems and procedures
2. Maintaining expenditure alignment with performance indicators
3. Planning for long-term financial sustainability



Minnesota SPDG

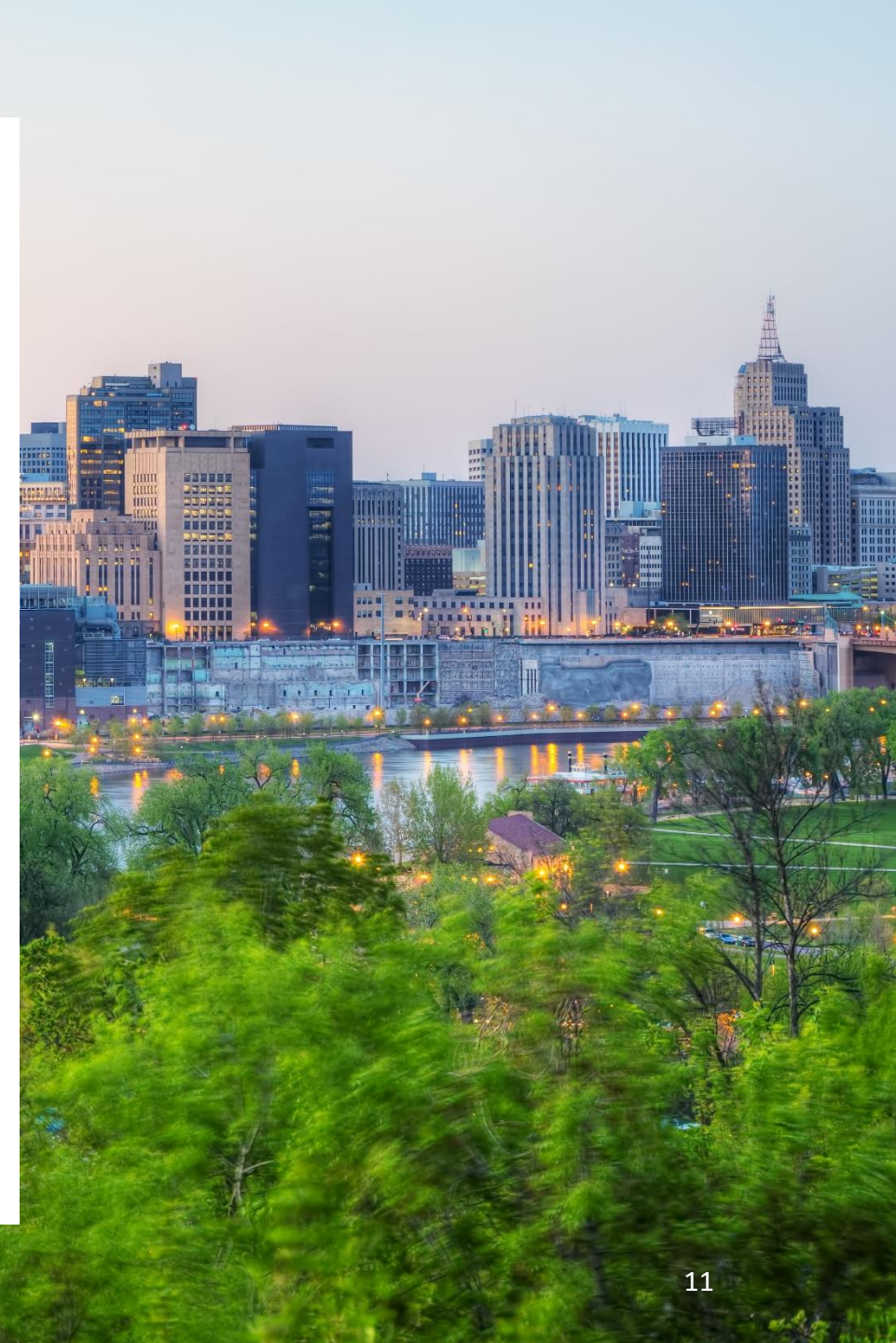
- 9 Subgrantee School Districts
- 1 Subgrantee Tribal School
- 1 Grant to the State Parent Training & Information Center
- 1 Joint Powers Agreement with a Tribal & Community College
- 1 Contract with an External Evaluator
- 1 Annual SIG Network Subscription
- Internal Agency Staffing & Operating Costs



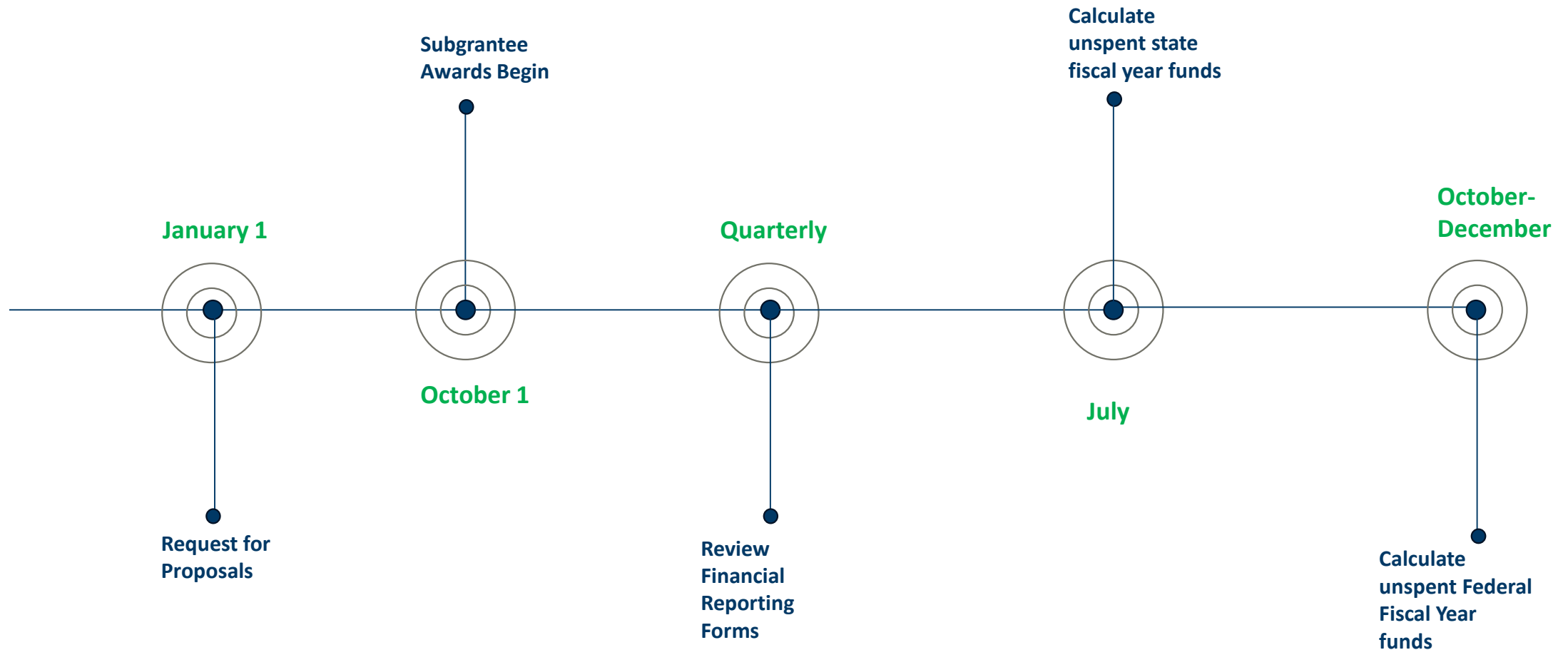
Challenge #1

Biggest challenges we've seen for SPDG integration with our internal agency finance systems:

- Federal fiscal year and state fiscal year have different start and end dates, so you end up with two different budget cycles, current balances, etc.
- Internal state agency staff confusion about whether unspent SPDG funds can be carried over.
- Project management, SPDG financial management, and grants management are three separate divisions and locations in the state agency.



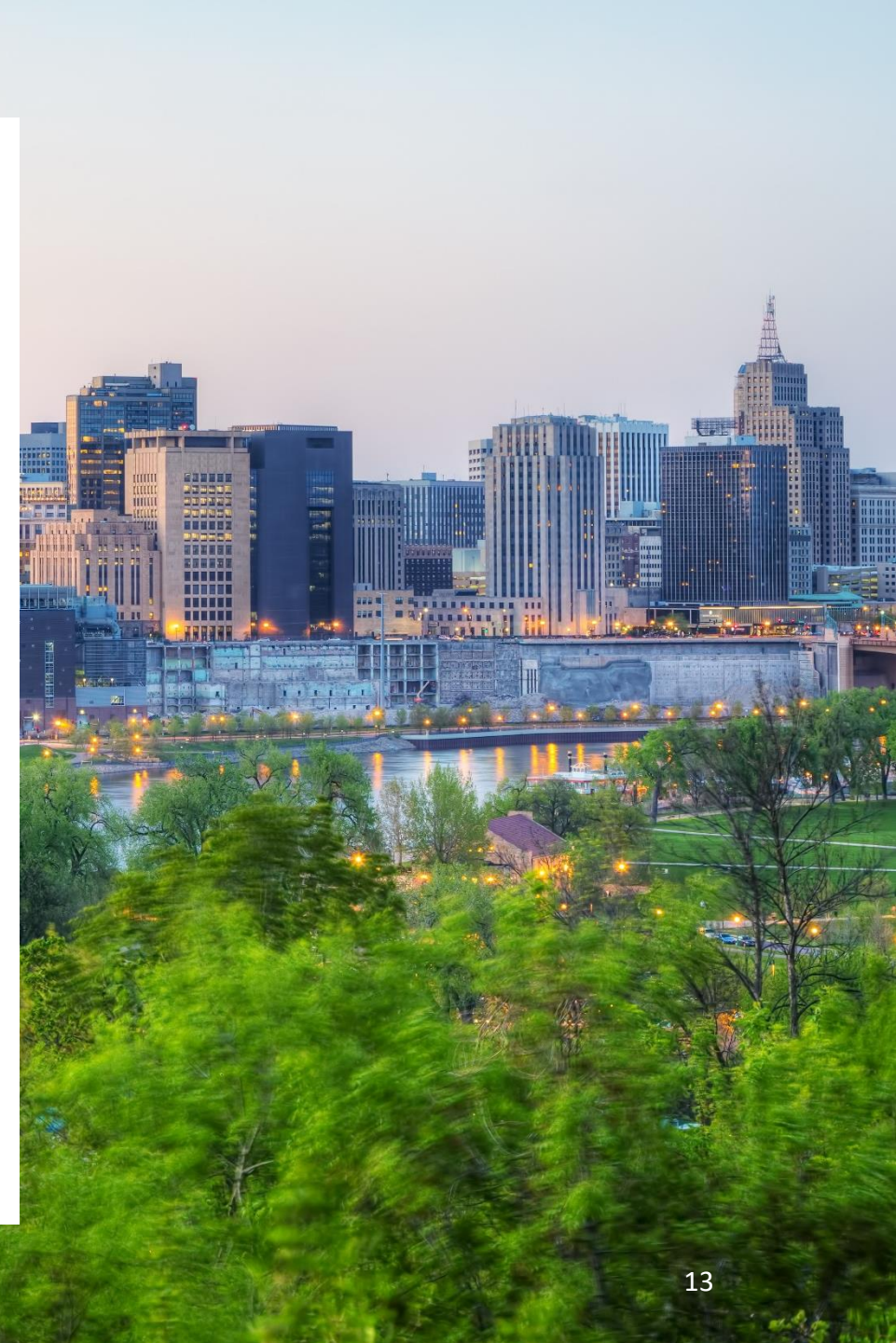
Example SEA Internal Finance System



Challenge #1

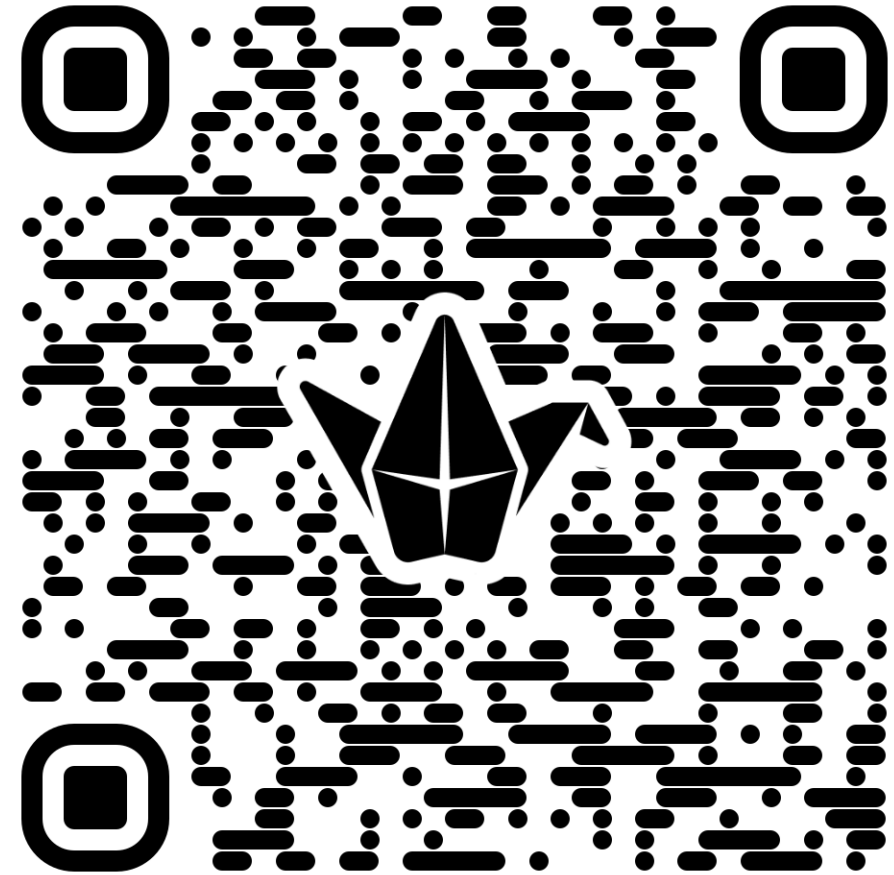
Best solutions we've seen for SPDG integration with our internal agency finance systems:

- Staff someone to the agency SPDG team who can speak the languages of all the other involved internal agency finance staff and knows their different processes and pressures.
- To the extent possible, put all the SPDG finance information in one place rather than other places (could be a person with access to all the separate places) and have everyone work from the same information.
- Communicate with your team and as a team to ensure messaging is uniform with partners



Group Activity #2

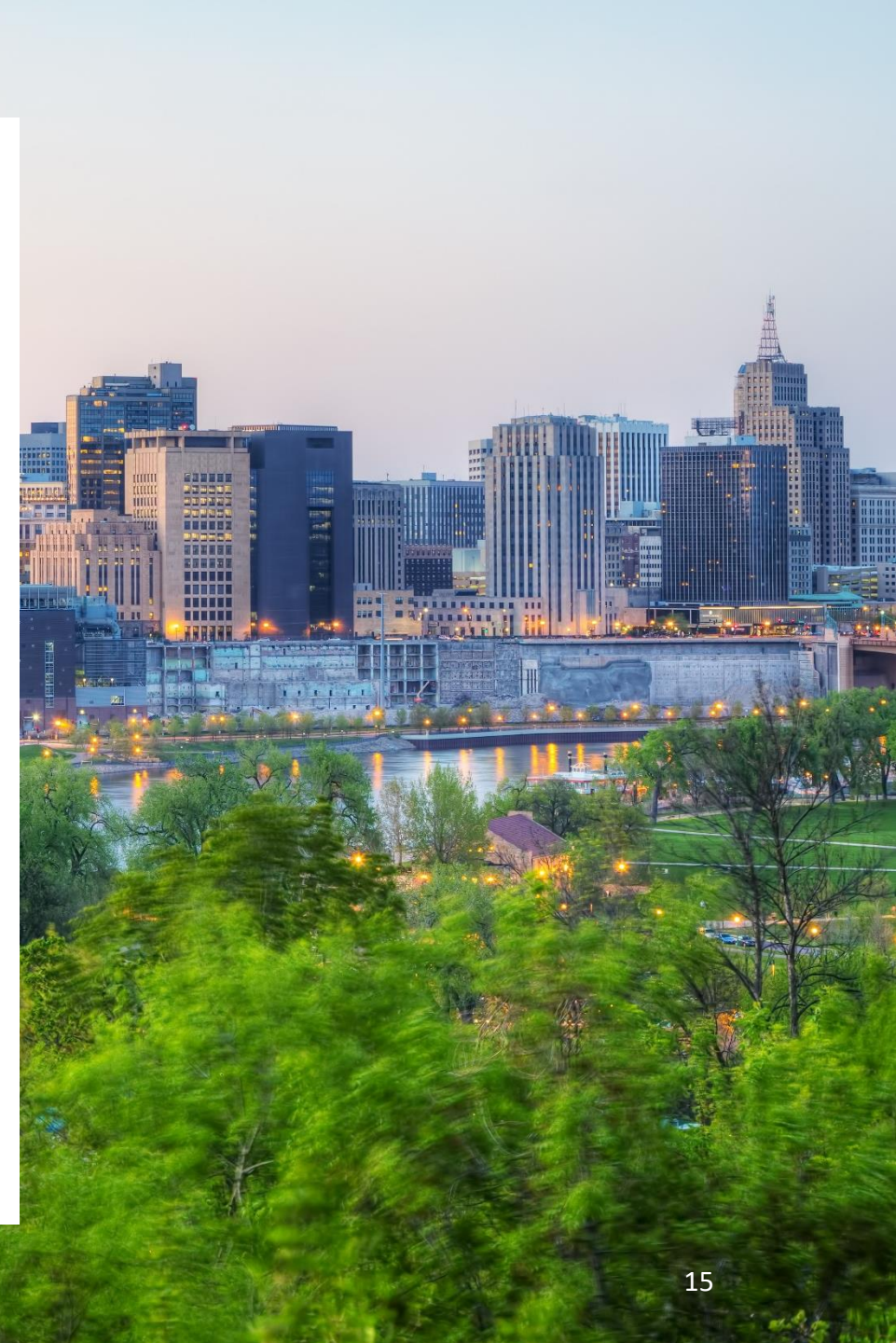
- Go to the **Padlet** by using the QR Code or going to <https://padlet.com/thomasdelaney3/spdg-financial-management-sustainability-6zn7xpu3078f9y2>
- **Second question** in the **second column** on Padlet. Use “+” to make a Post-It note with your answer and then drag it to the **second column**.
- “What is the most important thing you did to integrate the SPDG with internal agency finance systems and processes?”



Challenge #2

Biggest challenges we've seen for maintaining SPDG expenditure alignment with performance indicators:

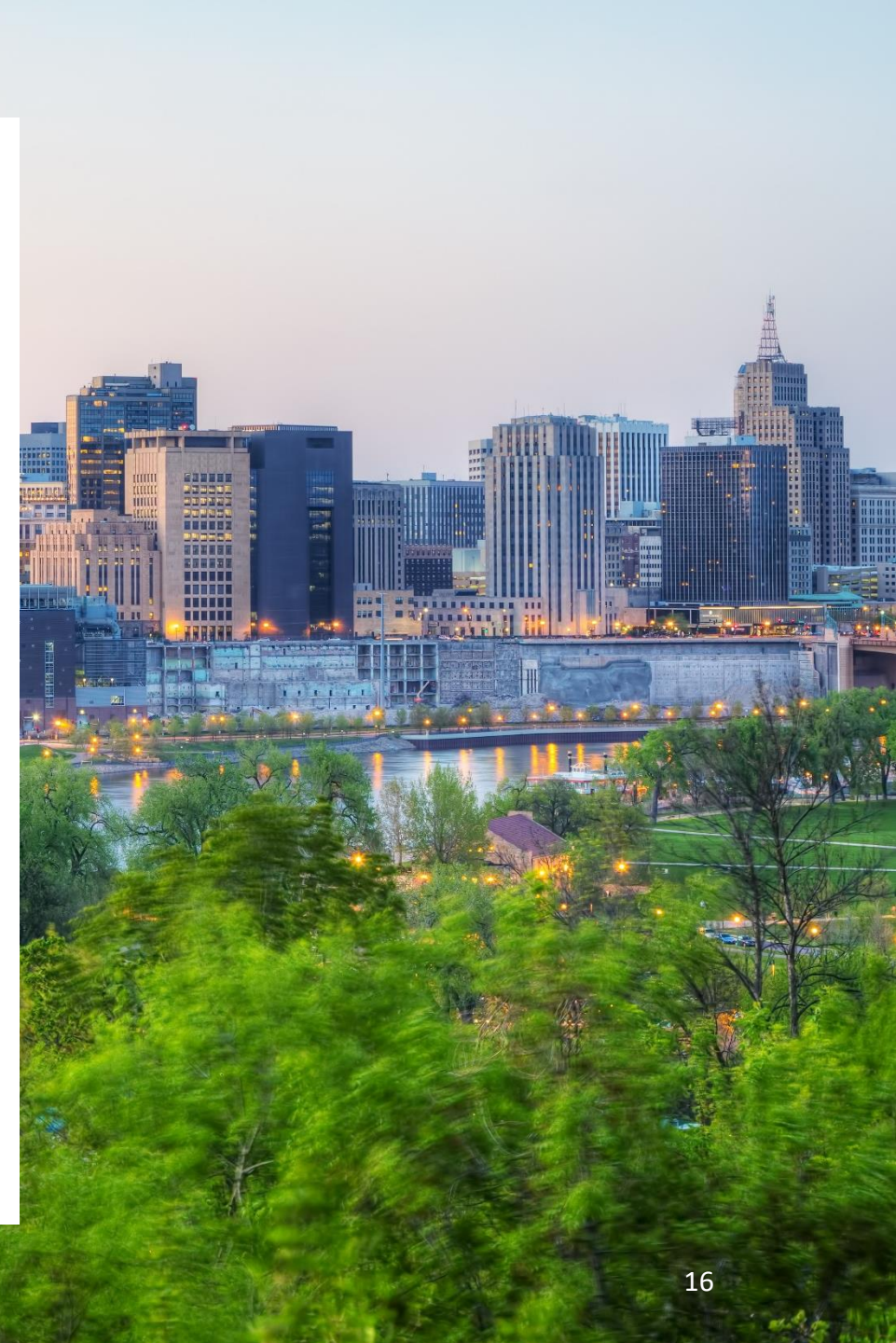
- One plan for EBP implementation and a different evident plan for spending SPDG funds.
- Too small or slow an investment in the things that will make the fastest and biggest impact on the performance indicator (e.g. staffing, professional development, data systems), especially initially.
- Overhead expenses, indirect costs, and other expenditures without a short and straight line to impact.



Challenge #2

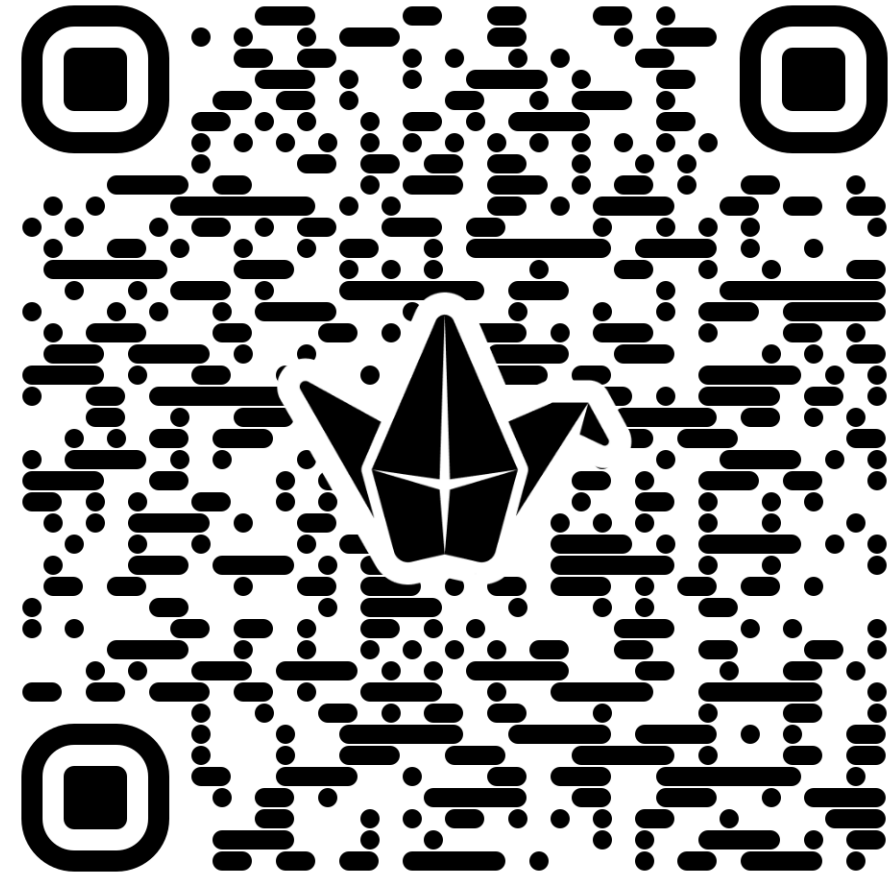
Best solutions we've seen for maintaining SPDG expenditure alignment with performance indicators:

- Establish clear, written guidance on permissible expenditures for the SPDG from your state agency, that links permitted expenditures to the things that will bump your indicator, not the things that won't.
 - The right activity.
 - The right staff.
 - The right students.
 - The right amounts.
- Make sure subgrantees' submitted budgets are reviewed by the SPDG team at your agency and the state agency implementation support staff at the subgrantee site for integrity with the plan and informal onsite expenditure monitoring.



Group Activity #3

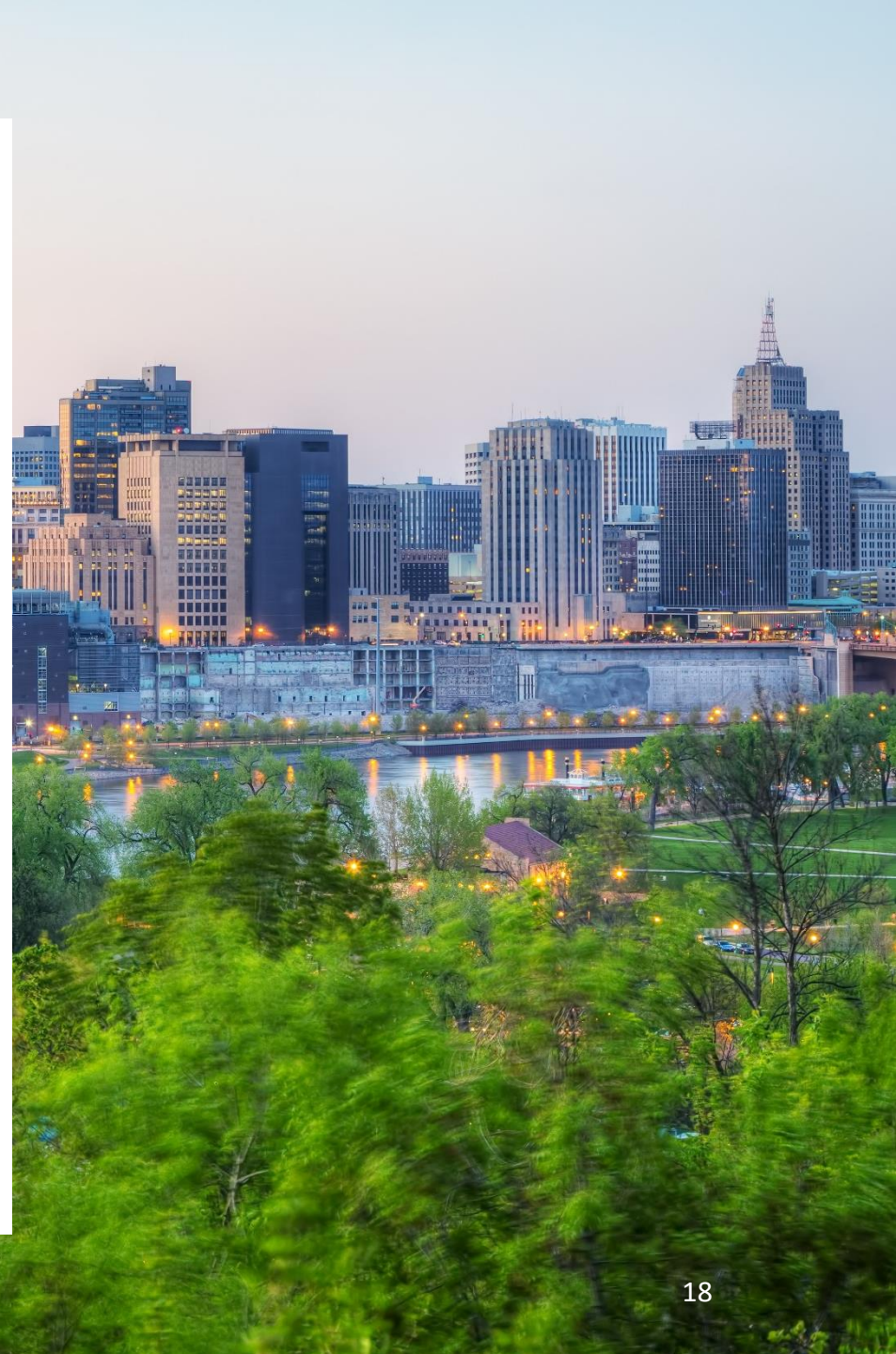
- Go to the **Padlet** by using the QR Code or going to <https://padlet.com/thomasdelaney3/spdg-financial-management-sustainability-6zn7xpu3078f9y2>
- **Third question** in the **third column** on the Padlet. Use “+” to make a Post-It note with your answer and then drag it to the **third column**.
- “What is the most important thing you did to align SPDG expenditures with SPDG performance indicators?”



Challenge #3

Biggest challenges we've seen in planning for long-term sustainability of SPDG-funded work:

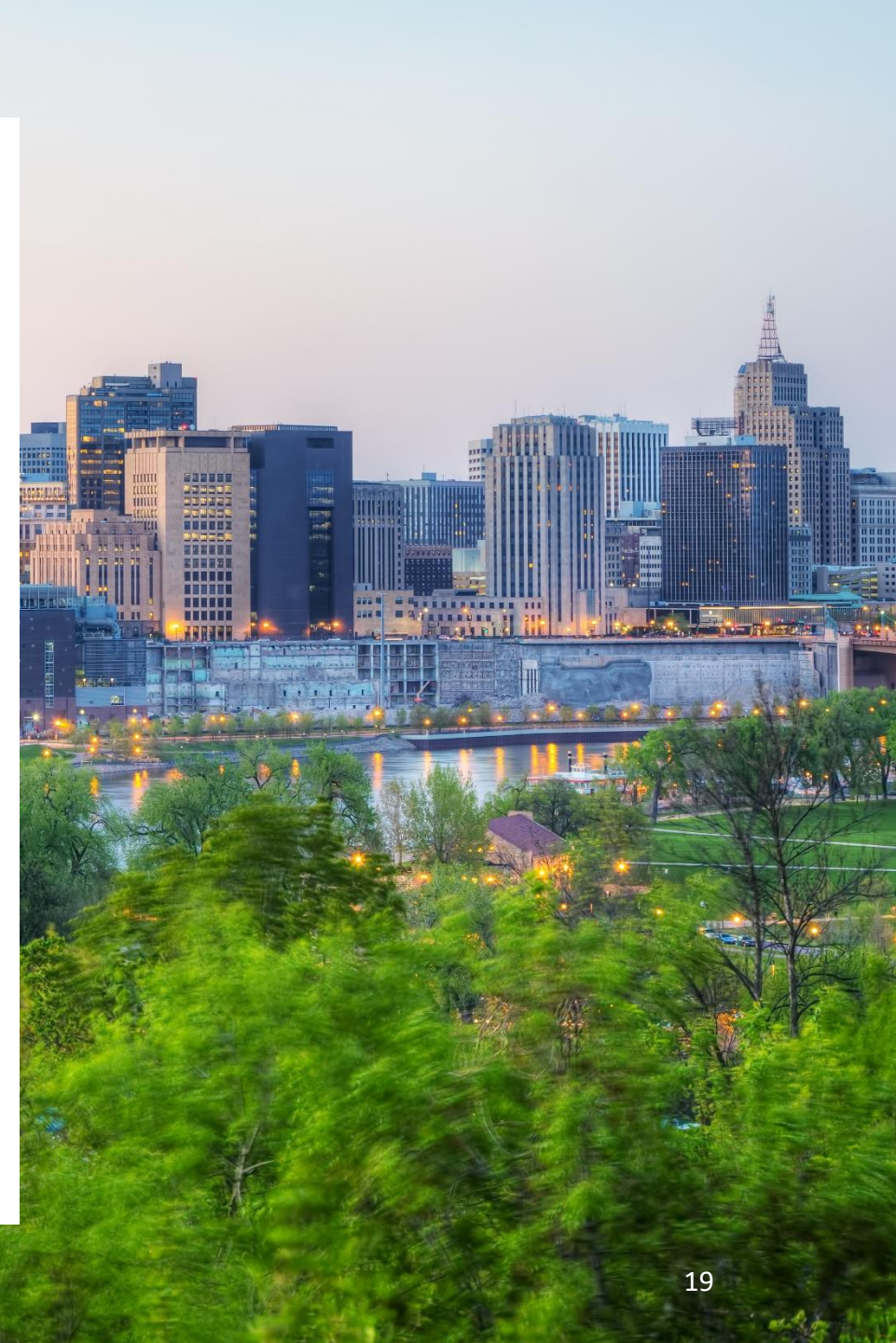
- Subgrantees that build a really big SPDG funding cliff for themselves with standalone FTE's, operating costs, etc.
- Lack of intentional planning for SPDG sunset.
- “Cut and run” at the least sign of possible SPDG reduction.



Challenge #3

Best solutions we've seen in planning for long-term sustainability of SPDG-funded work:

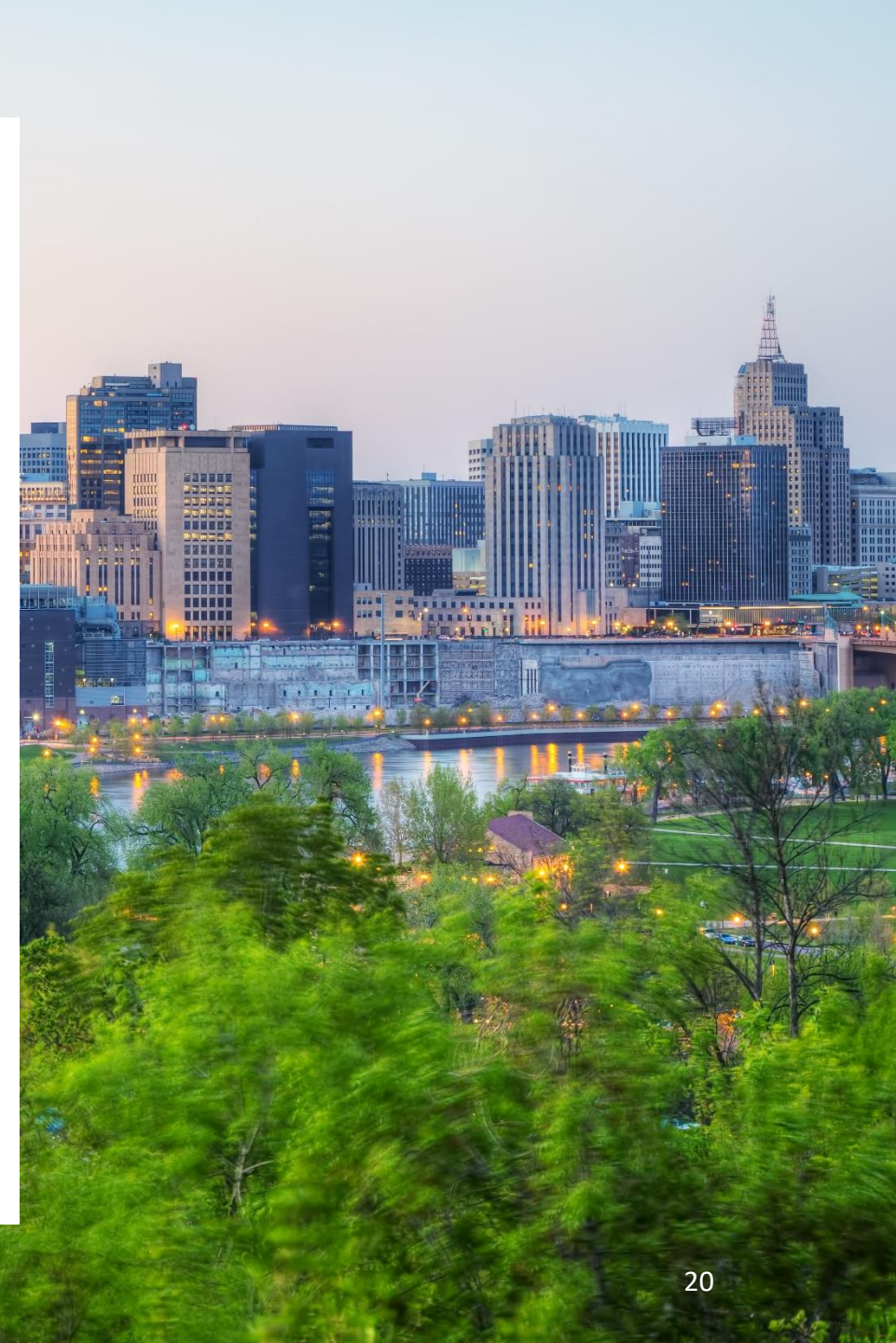
- Don't allow subgrantees to build themselves big SPDG funding cliffs with standalone FTE's, operational costs, etc. Look for job-embedded options.
- Make sure the implemented EBP can be job-embedded in FTE's that don't depend on the SPDG, e.g. special education teacher positions on other federal, state or local funds.
- Review if the subgrantee can better leverage available long-term state or federal funding, e.g. Medicaid for special education.



Challenge #3

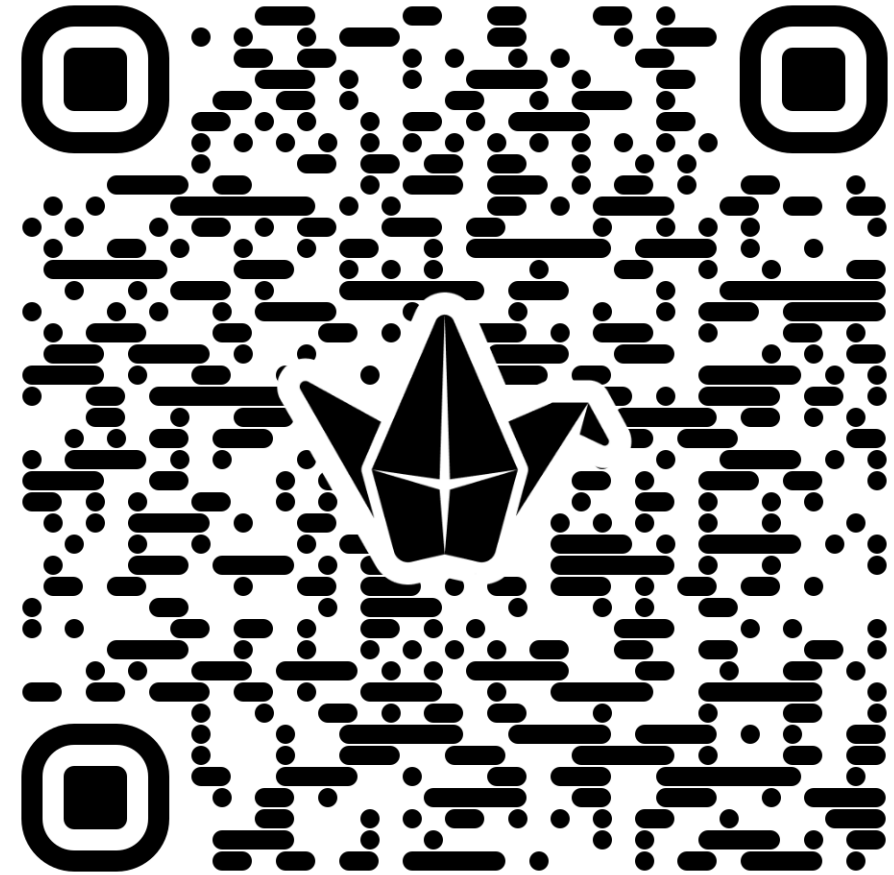
Best solutions we've seen in planning for long-term sustainability of SPDG-funded work:

- Ensure subgrantees collect impact and outcome data that can be used to communicate and convince alternative funders, including school boards and administrators.
- Pursue explicitly including the EBP in any longer term strategic plan the subgrantee administration may develop.
- Use a Give – Get Chart and an understood long-term mutual commitment to prevent “cut and run” dynamics.



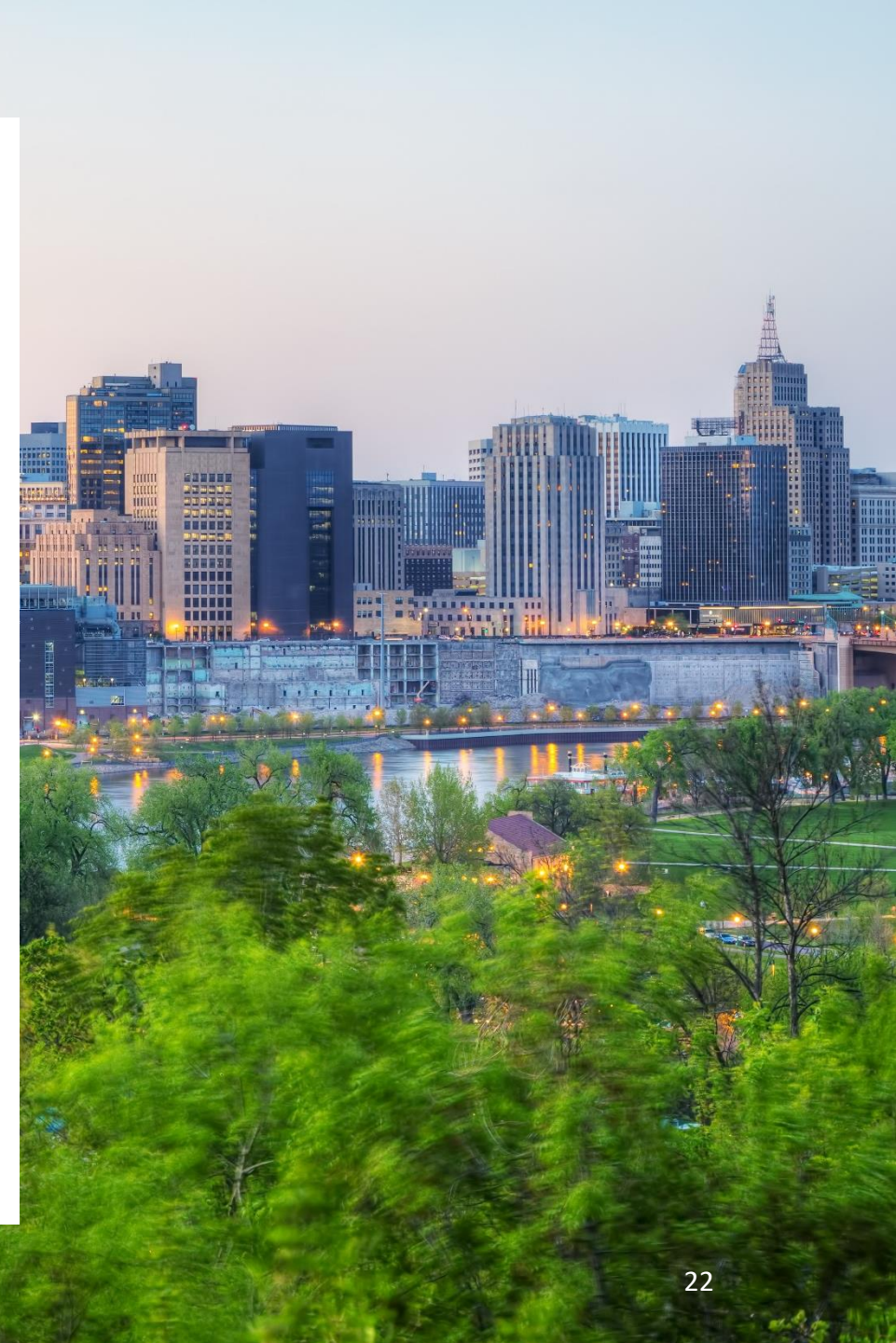
Group Activity #4

- Go to the **Padlet** by using the QR Code or going to <https://padlet.com/thomasdelaney3/spdg-financial-management-sustainability-6zn7xpu3078f9y2>.
- **Fourth question** in the **fourth column** on the **Padlet**. Use “+” to make a Post-It note with your answer and then drag it to the **fourth column**.
- “What is the most important thing you did for long-term sustainability of SPDG work?”



Topics for Later

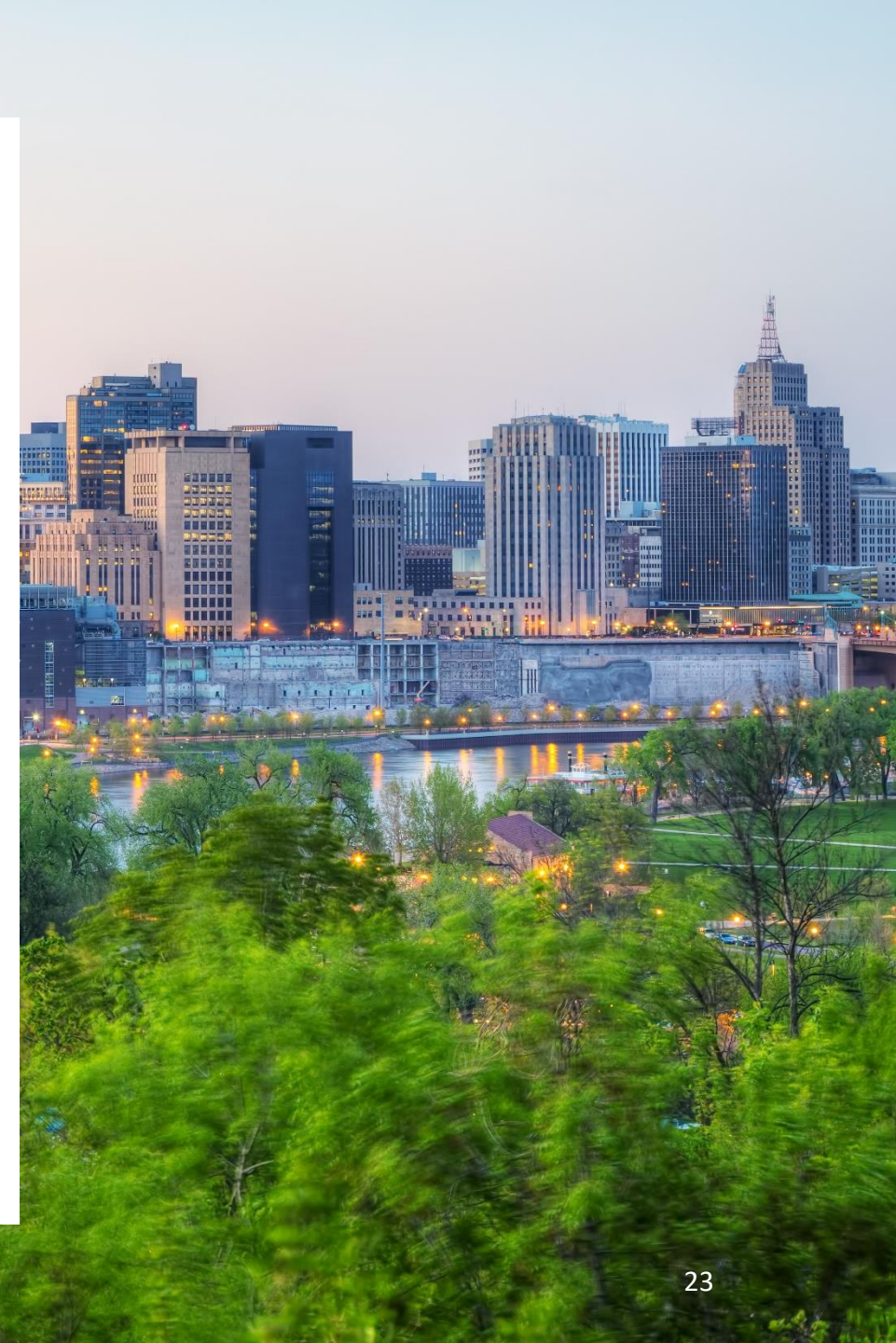
- Subgrants, budgets and expenditures that have to be approved by a third party, e.g. tribal government approval for tribal school subgrants.
- Grants are rectangles but implementation is a curve. How does that work?
- Subgrantees and contractors who are underperforming, and when to call it quits.
- Allowing and approving subgrantee invoices based on phased implementation and products of implementation rather than using grant periods.



Resource:
<https://signetwork.org/grant-management>

Uniform Guidance: Technical Assistance for ED Grantees

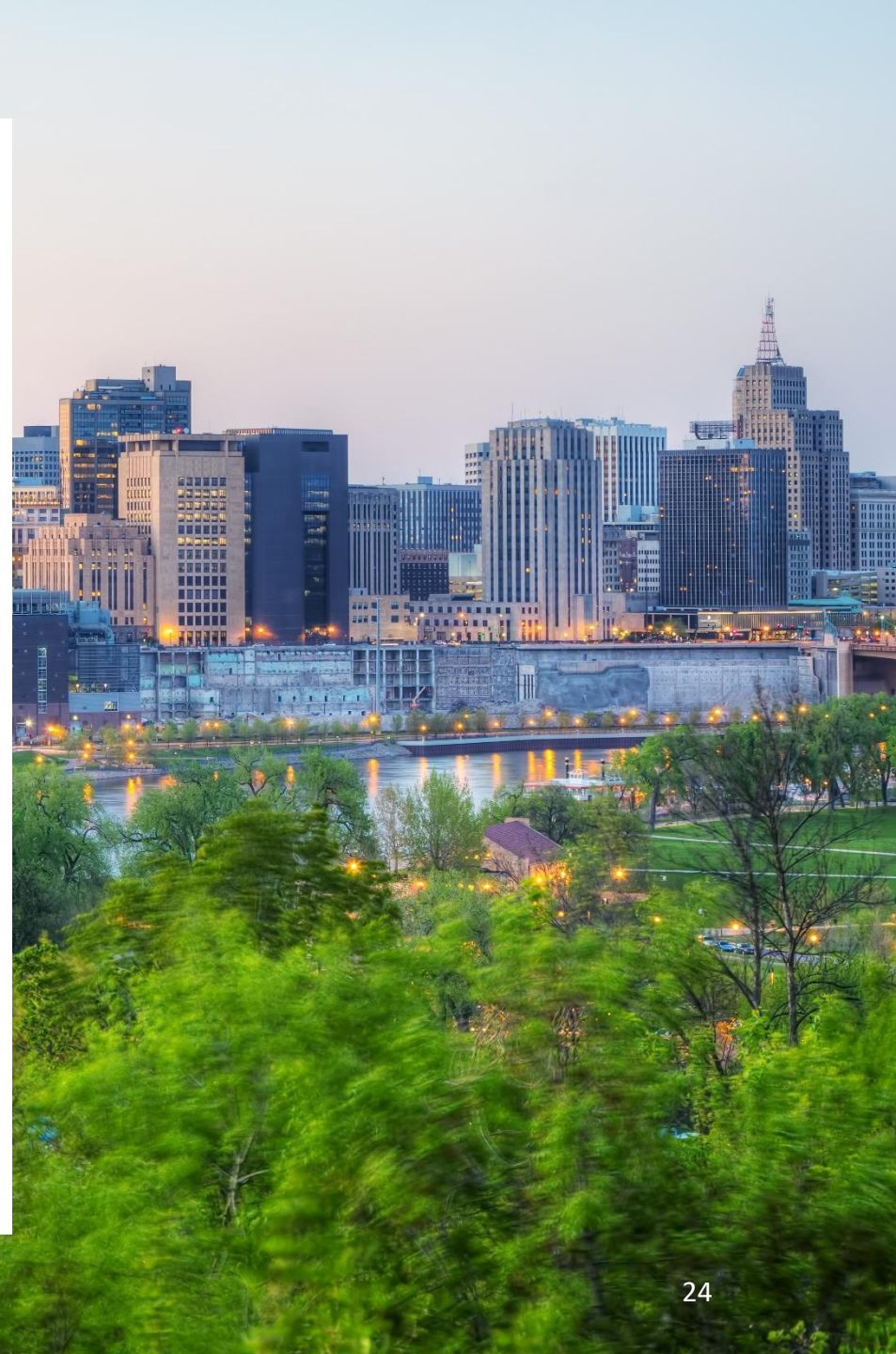
- The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (aka “**Uniform Guidance**”) ([2 C.F.R. § 200](#)) streamlines and consolidates government requirements for receiving and using federal awards so as to reduce administrative burden and improve outcomes. It was published in the Federal Register ([79 Fed. Reg. 75871](#)) on December 19, 2014, and became effective for new and continuation awards issued on or after December 26, 2014. It can be viewed online at: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl



Resource:
<https://signetwork.org/grant-management>

Uniform Guidance: Technical Assistance for ED Grantees

- Dedicated to assisting grantees with the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, the Department hosts the **Uniform Guidance One-Stop Shop** with information, including through ED-specific training and resources and also training material produced by OMB at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/guid/uniform-guidance/index.html>
- Contact your project officer with any questions.

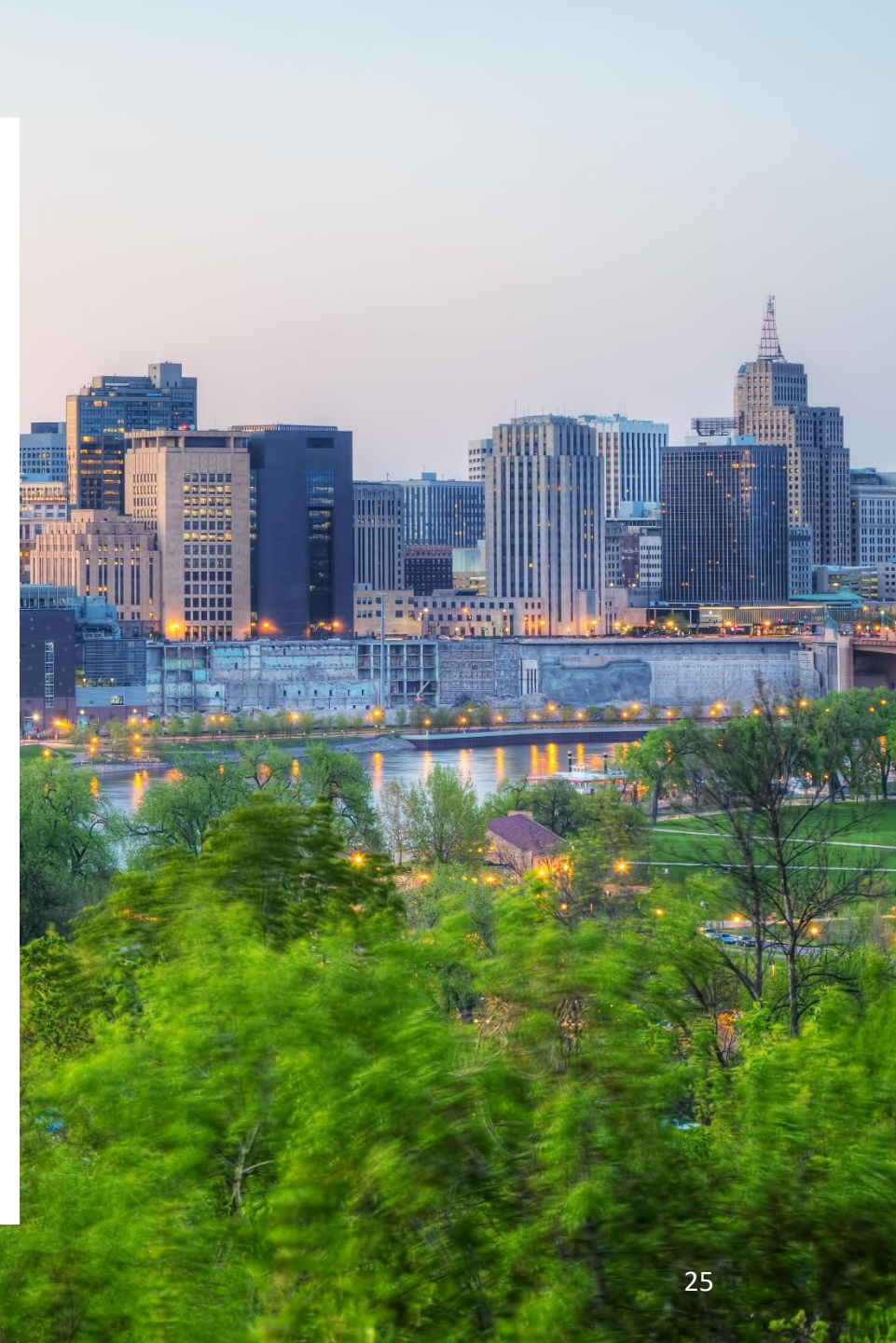


Resource:

<https://signetwork.org/grant-management>

ED has provided training on how to manage a grant, allocate spending appropriately, and so much more: [Grant Training and Risk Management | U.S. Department of Education](#)

- [Welcome to ED Grants](#)
- [Discretionary Grants Administration](#)
- [Allowable Costs](#)
- [Internal Controls](#)
- [Indirect Costs](#)
- [Subrecipient Monitoring](#)
- [The Procurement Process](#)



Resource:
<https://signetwork.org/grant-management>

Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)

These regulations are used by the Department to administer and manage its discretionary grant programs. Go to <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/edgarReg/edgar.html>.



Resource:
<https://signetwork.org/grant-management>

Grants Management Training

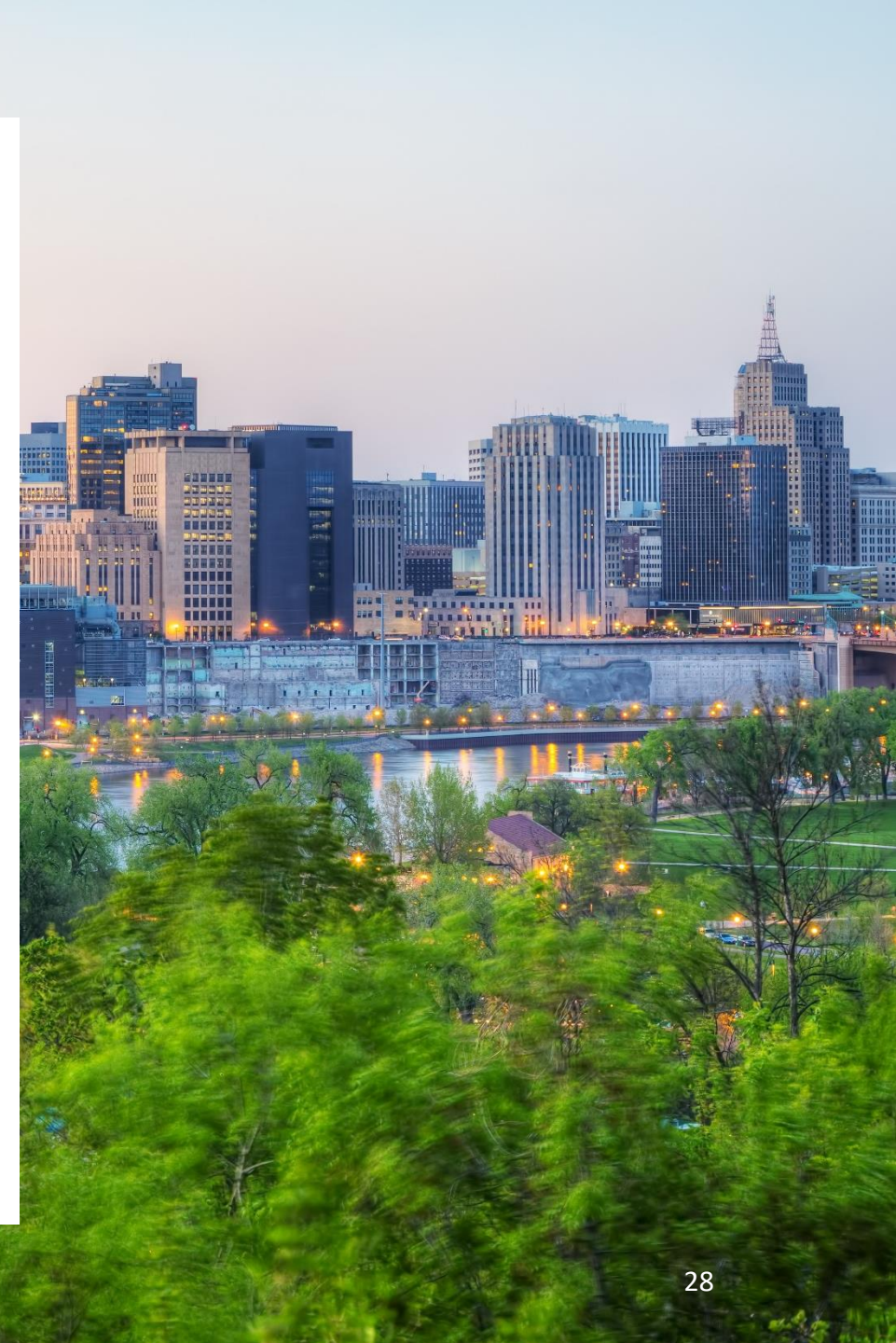
- Allowable Costs & Activities
- Subrecipient Monitoring
- Internal Controls
- Indirect Costs
- Cash Management
- Discretionary Grants Administration
- G5 System



Resource:
<https://signetwork.org/new-to-spdg>

Grants Management Training

- 1st Year Spending Expectations
- Uniform Guidance for 10% Budgetary Line Item Changes
- Requirement for 90% Expenditure on Professional Development
- ED Grant Management Training Modules
- G5 System



Thank You!

For Minnesota SPDG information, e-mail Tom Delaney:

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