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Accelerating Research Translation

NSF Accelerating Research Translation (NSF ART) 2025

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Outline

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- ART program
  - The Big Picture, Erwin Gianchandani, NSF assistant director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (NSF TIP)
- Goals and vision
- What does ART support?
- Research translation readiness levels (RTRL)
- Program structure & funding
- Eligibility & review criteria
- Become a reviewer

- Proposal(s) should be submitted in accordance with the solicitation, latest NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) and other guidance available on NSF website.

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NSF ART Program

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Vision and Goals

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Vision

- Greatly expand the capacity for and scale of research translation and technology transfer at IHE's across United States.

Goals

- Enable and catalyze accelerate research translation across all disciplines.
- Develop resources to effectively train students, post doctoral researchers, and faculty in entrepreneurship, technology transfer and other activities that ultimately stimulate economic growth and enhance our competitiveness.
- Train individuals to engage with a wide range of career opportunities.

Catalyzing Research Translation

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Today

- Research translation – driven by highly motivated individual faculty.
- Requires institutional infrastructure and support – not available everywhere.
- Low levels of translation activity outside a few IHEs.
- “Disconnected islands of translation”

With ART

- Research translation as a natural organic next step for foundational research.
- Build and grow Institutional capacity and associated infrastructure.
- High levels of research translation outcomes everywhere in the long term.
- “Interconnected community of translation practitioners”

Research Translation Readiness Level

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Low RTRL

- Smaller pockets of research and innovation
- No or very small tech transfer office
- Very limited patenting, licensing and entrepreneurship activities

Medium RTRL

- Overall high volume of research and innovation but low research translation
- Few and inconsistent good industry-university partnerships
- Small tech transfer office
- Clear IP related policies and procedures
- Few patents, licenses, some start-ups etc.

High RTRL

- Very high volume of research and innovation
- Sustained and large-scale partnerships with industry and others
- Robust tech transfer office, accelerators, incubator related activities.
- Clear IP policies, significant patenting, licensing and entrepreneurship activities
- Educational and training resources related to entrepreneurship, tech transfer. (Tracks 3, 4)
- Experience in coordination of continuing education tech transfer related programs for small businesses, start-ups, working collaboratively with other IHE (Track 5)

What Does ART Support?

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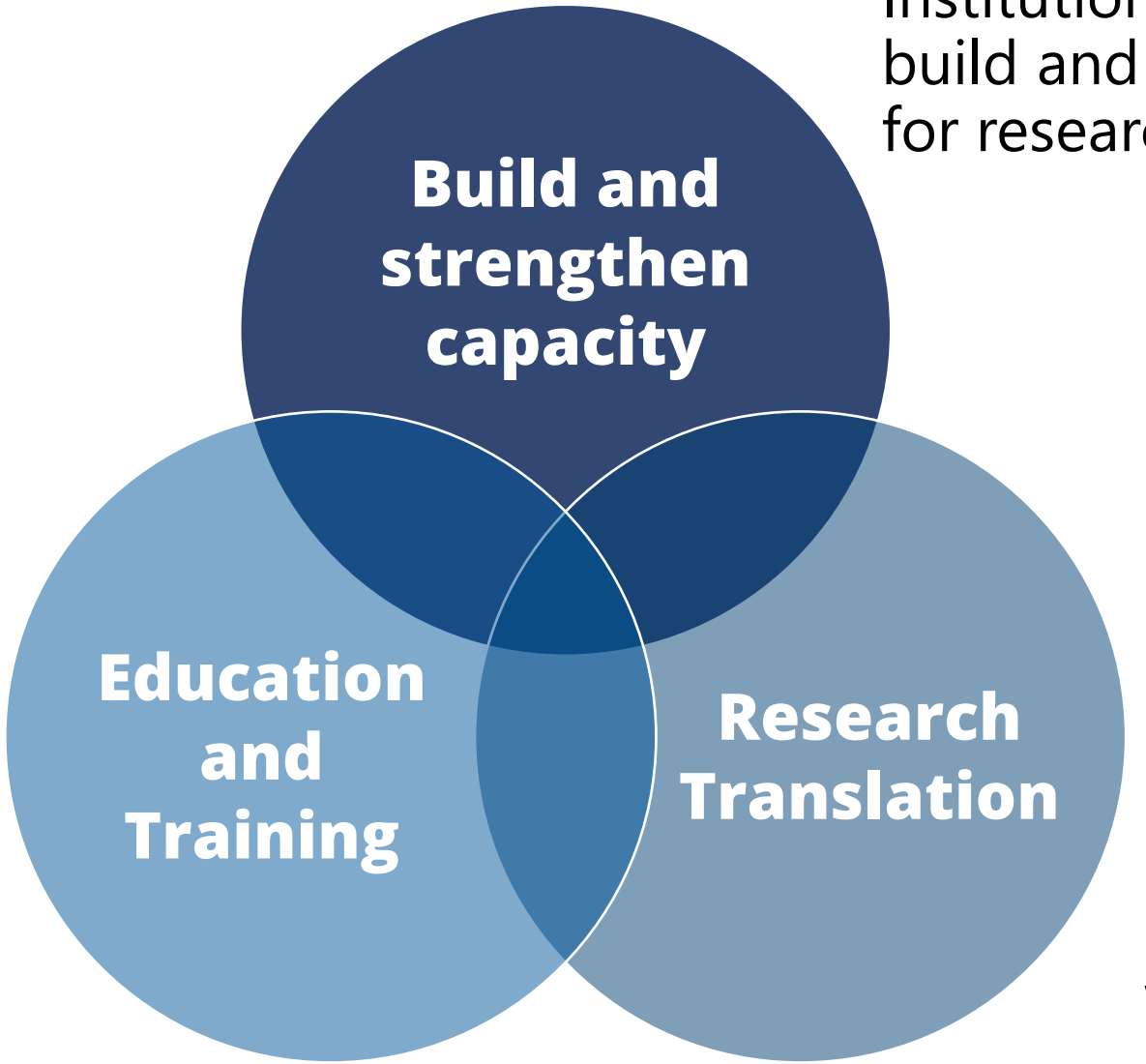
Institutional infrastructure to build and sustain capacity for research translation.



Learn-by-action: faculty, students and postdoctoral fellows

Specific seed projects to exercise translational research processes, policies and pathways within IHE.

ART Program Details

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- Anticipated type of award: standard grant, continuing grant or cooperative agreement.
- Up to $175 million anticipated overall funding amount.
- Up to 40 awards total (subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals received):
  - Track 1 (ACT): up to 20 awards
  - Track 2 (GROW): up to 10 awards
  - Track 3 (RESOURCE): up to 5 awards
  - Track 4 (ET): up to 4 awards
  - Track 5 (CART): up to 2 awards

Track 1: ACT (Low RTRL)

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Accelerating Technology Transfer

- Aimed at IHEs with a low to medium level of overall research and can demonstrate potential for identifying and acting on opportunities for economic benefits by starting to build capacity for innovation translation.
- The proposal must be led by and focused on outcomes of one IHE.
- Each Track 1 award is expected to be up to a total of $3 million for 3 years.

Track 2: GROW (Medium RTRL)

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Growing Capacity for Research Translation

- Aimed at IHEs with a high level of research, with high potential and desire to substantially elevate the overall level of research translation.
- Each Track 2 award may be budgeted for up to a total of $6 million for 4 years.

Track 3: RESOURCE (High RTRL)

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Technology Transfer Resource Centers

- Goal: Launch a network of regional Technology Transfer Resource Centers (RESOURCE) serving multiple IHEs in a region.
- Aimed at IHEs or non-profits with strong research translation capacity/experience and desire to grow regional technology transfer and mentor other IHEs.
- Each Track 3 award is expected to be up to a total of $8 million for 4 years.

Track 4: ET (High RTRL)

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Education and Training

- Goal: Development of resources for education and training in research translation, entrepreneurship, startup formation, commercialization, industry collaboration, product development and engaged scholarship.
- Aimed at IHEs or non-profits with a strong research translation ecosystem and/or demonstrated experience in entrepreneurial education and training, product development, technology transfer and industry partnerships.
- Each Track 4 award is expected to be up to a total of $3 million for 3 years.

Track 5: CART (High RTRL)

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Coordinating Accelerating Research Translation

- Goal: Support the creation of a unifying center that facilitates and coordinates an integrated platform for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the progress of Track 1 and Track 2 teams.
- Aimed at IHEs or non-profits with a strong research translation ecosystem and/or demonstrated experience in entrepreneurial education and training, product development, technology transfer and industry partnerships.
- The Track 5 CART awards are expected to be up to a total of $3 million for 5 years.

Research Translation Readiness Level

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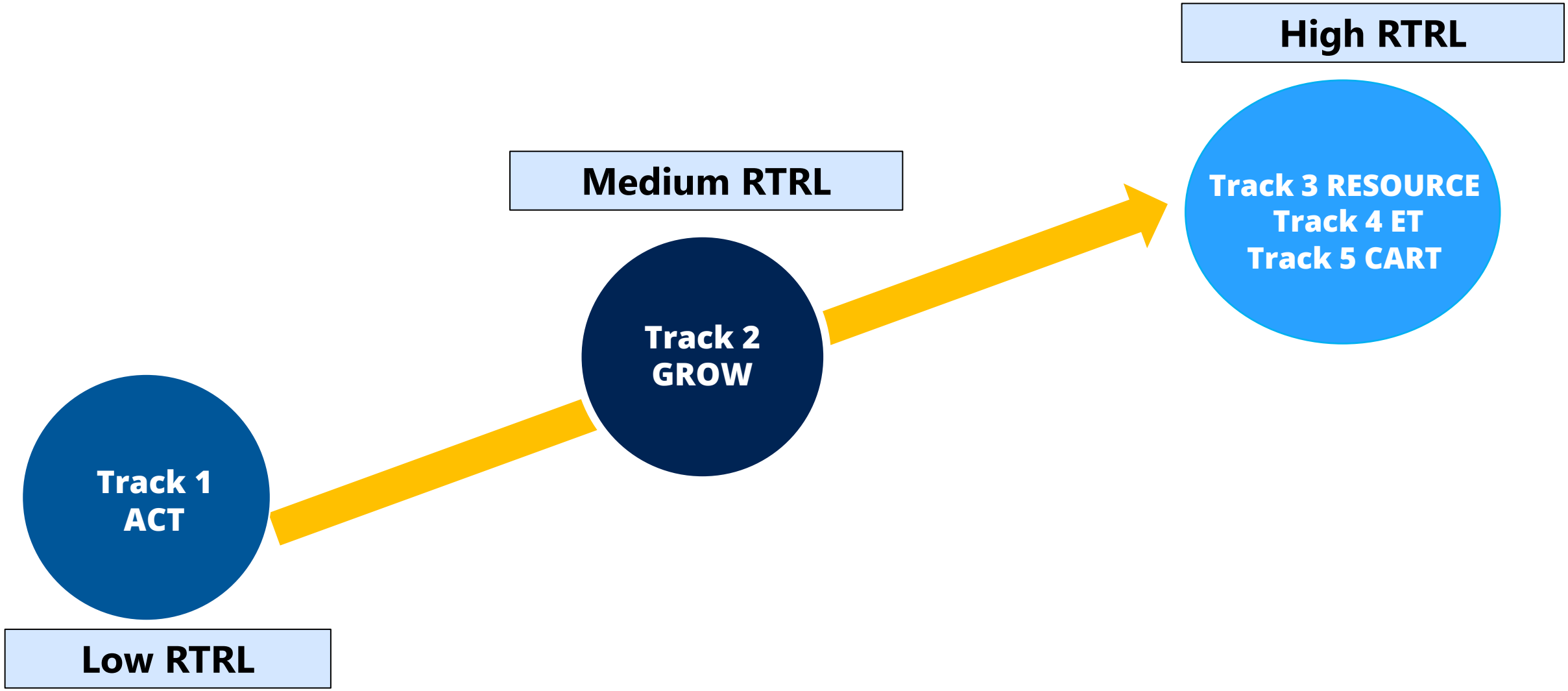

Eligibility Information

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Who can submit proposals?

- Track 1 and 2 - IHEs
- Track 3, 4 and 5 - IHEs or Non-profits

Who may serve on the proposal team?

- It is expected that the PI is a member of senior leadership team at the proposing organization.
- A representative of technology transfer office or equivalent is strongly encouraged to be at least a Co-PI.
- The PI, Co-PIs, or any other senior/key personnel must hold an appointment at an organization that is eligible to submit as described under "Who May Submit Proposals".

Proposal Submission Limitation

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There is a limit on the number of proposals that each organization can submit.

- An eligible IHE can submit a maximum of one proposal for Track 1 or 2 (but not both).
- For Tracks 3, 4, and 5, an eligible organization can submit a maximum of one proposal per Track.
- Applicants for Track 1 and 2 are NOT eligible to submit proposal to Track 3, 4, and 5 and vice versa.

Proposal Content

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In general, proposals should clearly address:

- Vision, goals and strategy
- Opportunities and gaps
- Outcomes
- Sustainability plan
- Evaluation plan
- Timeline of activities

Supplementary documents are needed. Please see the solicitation for details.

Track specific review criteria

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- Tracks 1 (ACT) and 2 (GROW) : Does the proposal clearly define as to how the IHE will increase its RTRL over the course of the award and then sustain and grow beyond the award duration?

- Track 3 (RESOURCE) : Does the proposal present a compelling case that the lead organization will help boost the capacity for research translation for other low RTRL IHEs and within the region with a clear plans for its sustainability.

Track specific review criteria

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- **Track 4 (ET) :** A clear plan for developing and disseminating education and training material for undergraduate, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty around research translation and entrepreneurship.

- **For Track 5 (CART) :** Capability and plan of lead organization in creating a coordinated activities in areas related to entrepreneurship, technology transfer, development of educational and training resources for Track 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Review Criteria

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Additional solicitation specific review criteria for ALL tracks

- Does the lead organization and the overall proposal show a strong alignment with the intent of the track to which it is submitted?
- The NSF ART program will support only those proposals that show a clear and strong alignment with the goals of the track to which they are submitted.

Please read the solicitation closely for specific review criteria for individual tracks.

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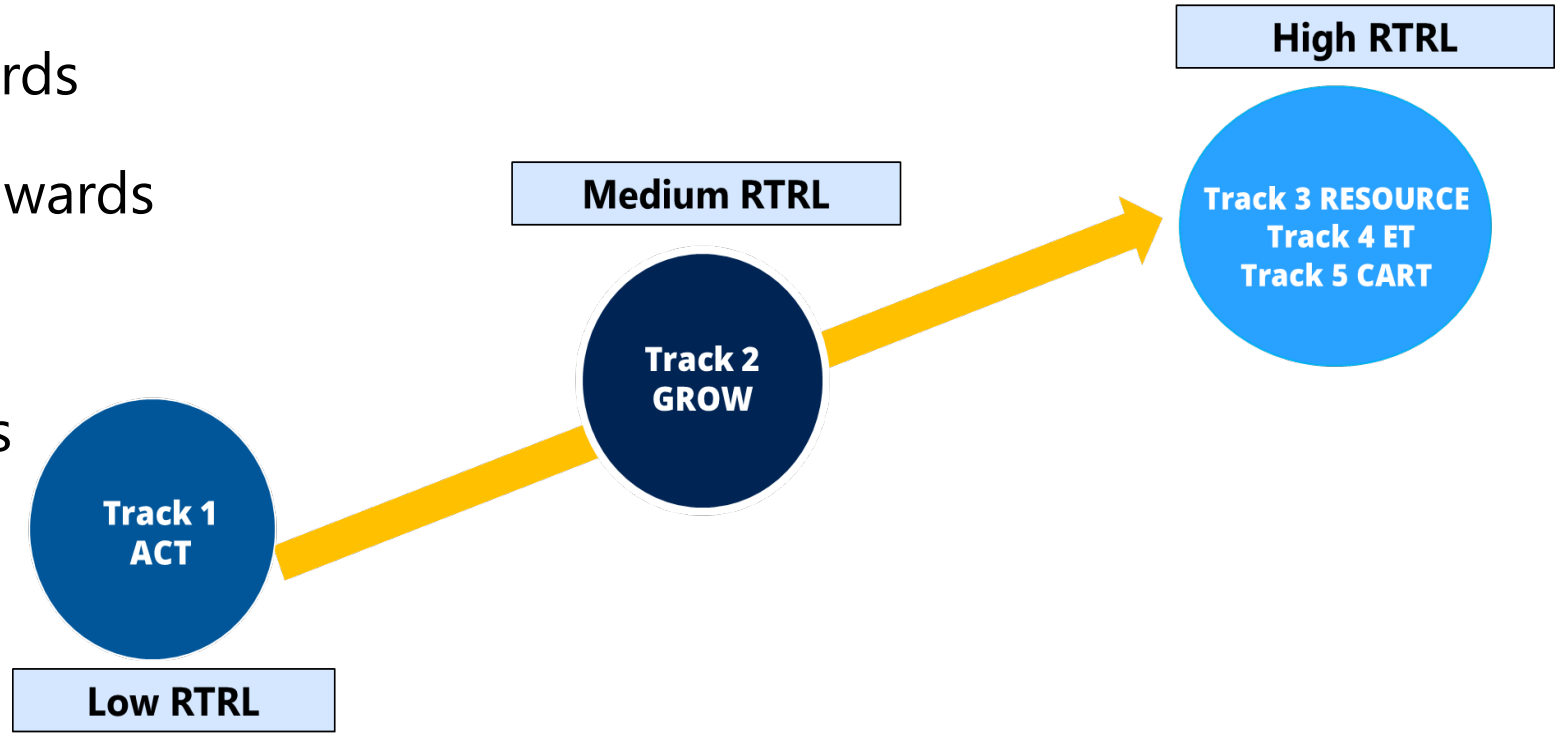

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