

■ Your nonprofit is leaving GP. Should your fund accounting change, too?

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Meet our expert



Selena Elledge, CPA

Principal, Nonprofit Microsoft Leader

With over 35 years at Sikich, including 20 years of experience with Dynamics GP and more than six years with Business Central, Selena helps nonprofit organizations modernize their financial systems to better support their missions.



Agenda

1. About Sikich
2. What can fund accounting look like after leaving GP?
3. Business Central's ecosystem
4. Evaluating 3 levels of needs
5. Accounting examples
6. Migration planning tools
7. Roadmap and next steps
8. Q&A

Sikich at a glance

Sikich offers the public and private sectors a diverse platform of professional services across consulting, technology and compliance. Highly specialized and hands-on teams deliver integrated solutions rooted in deep industry experience. Our approach is strategically and thoughtfully designed to help our clients, teams and communities accelerate success.

Our ranking

Sikich ranks within the country's top 25 largest Certified Public Accounting firms and is among the top 10 of all enterprise resource planning solution partners in the country.

2.5K+
Total personnel

40+
Years serving clients

 Global
presence

1 Positive and
collaborative culture

Where we thrive



Financial services



Government



Life sciences &
healthcare



Manufacturing &
distribution



Nonprofit
and education



Private equity



Professional
services



Wholesale &
supply chain

Risk management

- Cybersecurity
- Forensics and valuations
- Governance, risk and compliance
- Transaction advisory

Compliance services

- Audit and assurance
- IT controls
- Tax services

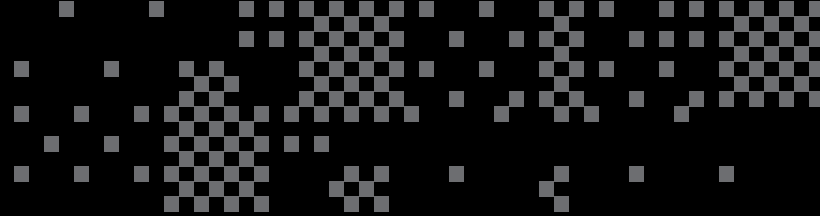
Enterprise application consulting

- Data and AI
- ERP, CRM, HCM products and services
- Regulatory, quality and compliance

Business process solutions

- Finance and accounting services
- IT and security managed services
- Marketing and communications

How we help you thrive



Moving beyond Dynamics GP is not only a question of what replaces GP

But also, what must the next system make easier, clearer, or more controlled?

Structure

Funds, grants, programs, departments, locations, and entities.

Control

Restrictions, approvals, allocations, and interfund activity.

Visibility

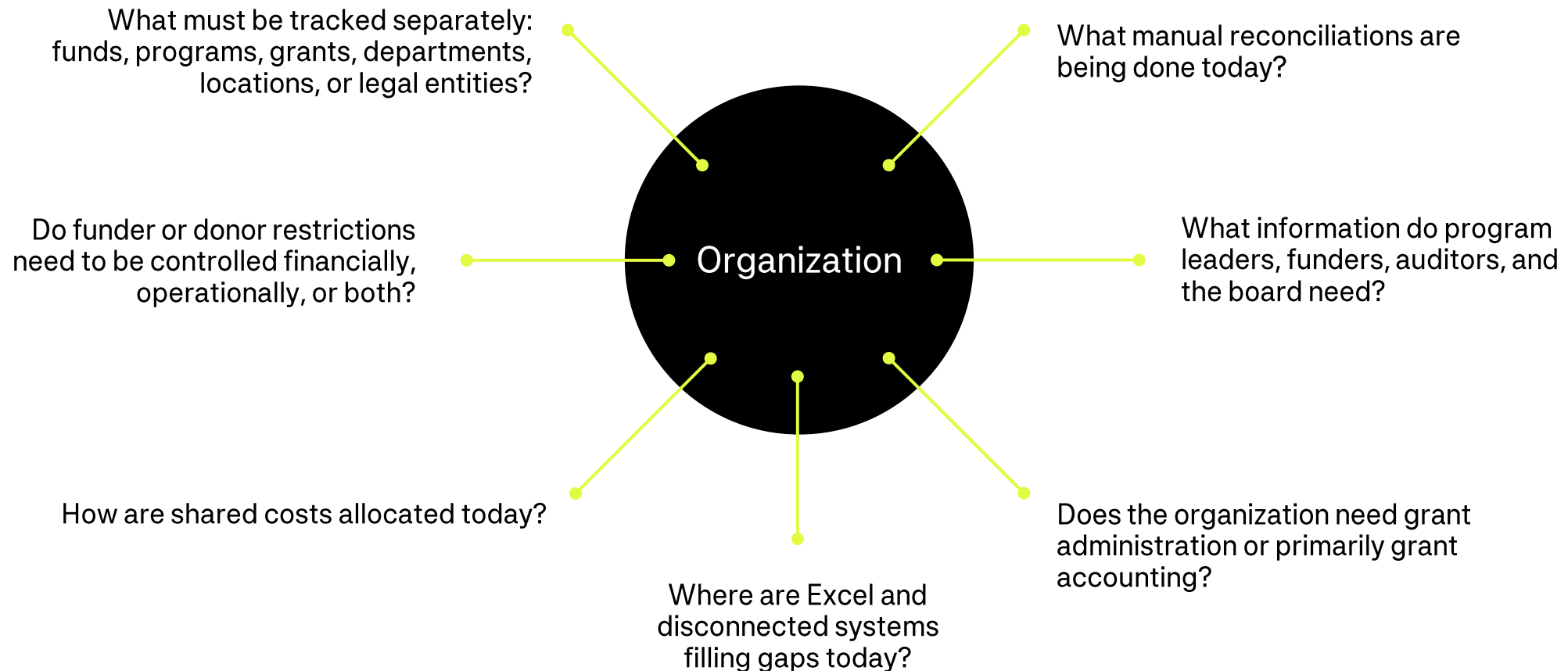
Timely answers for finance, program leaders, funders, auditors, and the board.

Connectivity

Fewer spreadsheets and disconnected systems.

Start with requirements. Then choose the technology.

Start with what your organization needs to accomplish.



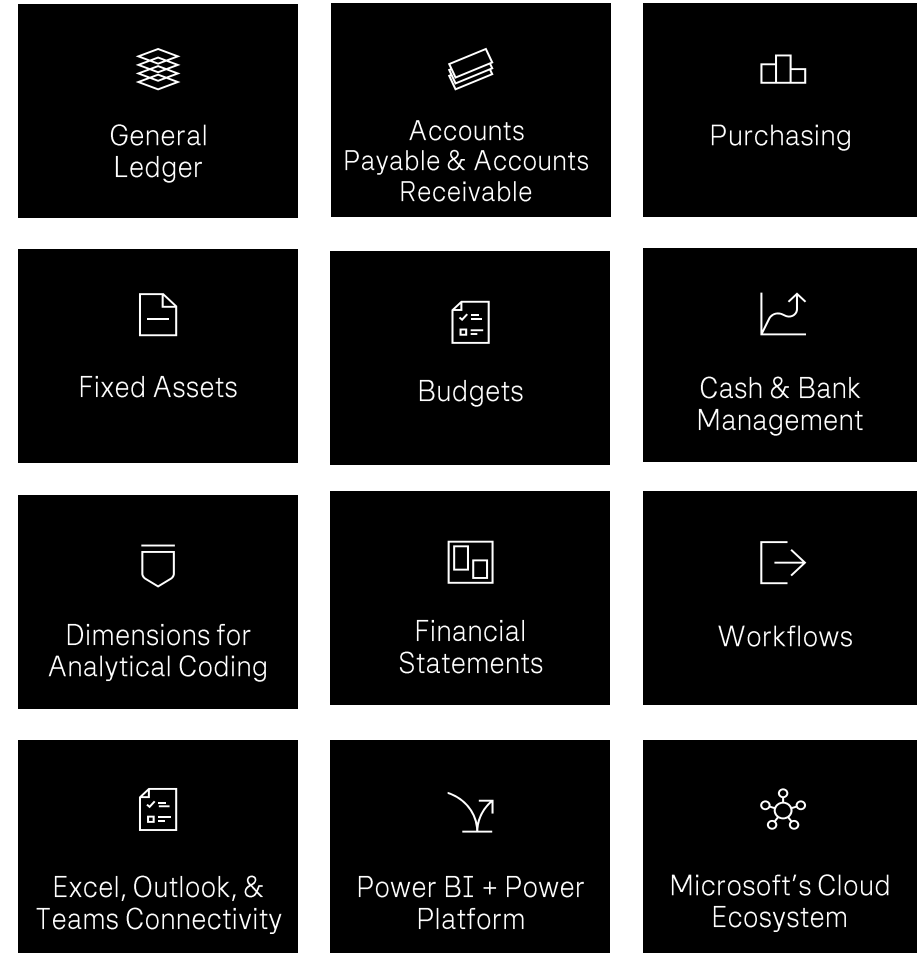
The opportunity is bigger than replacing GP

Move from a legacy accounting system to a connected financial platform

Moving away from	Moving toward
Segmented account strings carrying too much information	A simpler chart of accounts supported by dimensions
Reports assembled after the fact	Real-time financial reporting and drill-down
Spreadsheet-based allocations	Repeatable allocation approaches
Separate budgeting files	Connected budgeting and budget-to-actual visibility
Approvals documented in emails or on paper	Defined workflows and approval routing
Data exported from multiple systems	Integrated financial and operational information
Finance as the sole source of answers	Role-appropriate access for program and leadership teams

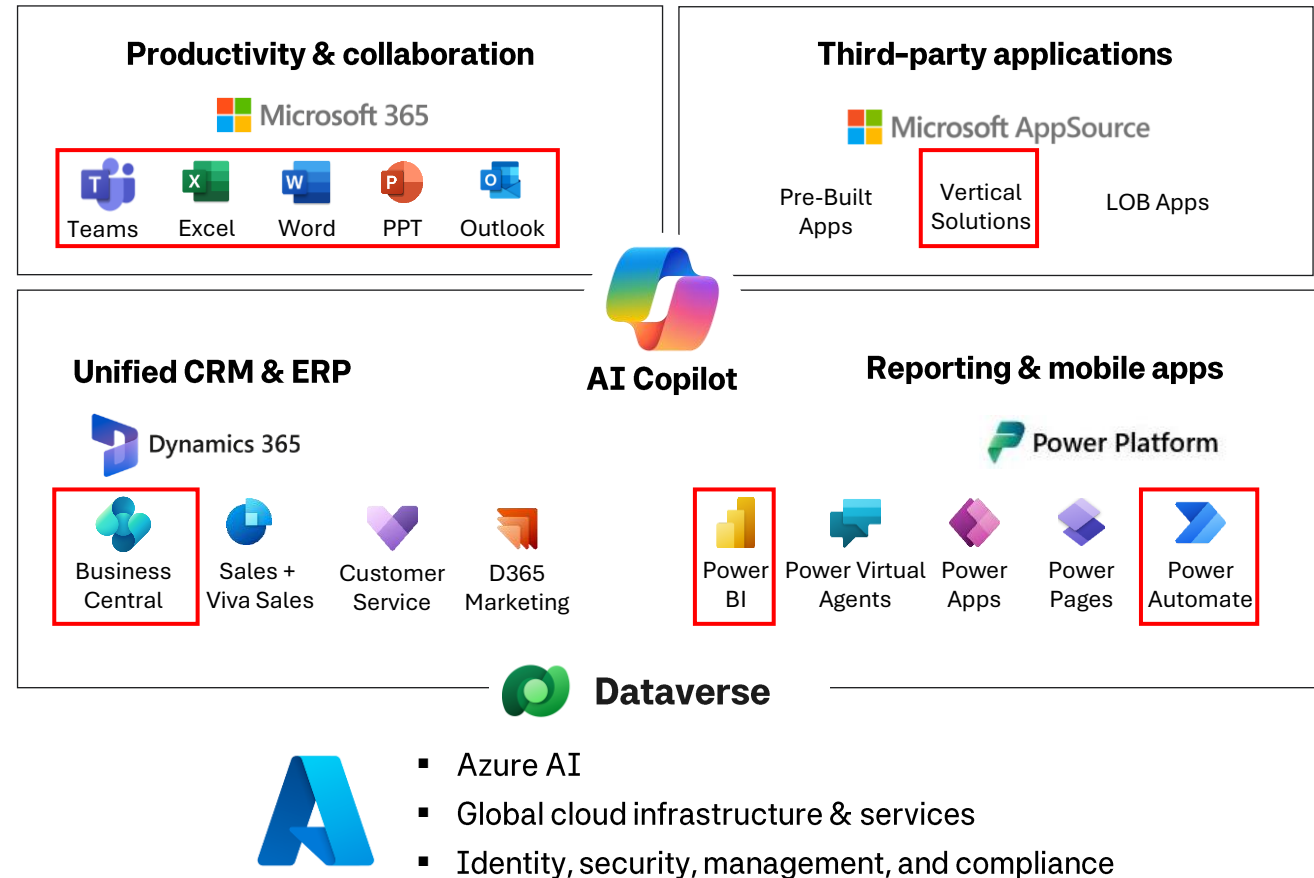
Business Central is the common financial foundation

The decision is how much nonprofit-specific capability to add around the core.



Amplify impact with the Microsoft ecosystem

- Connects everyday tools with your financial system for better user adoption and decision-making
- Enables real-time collaboration on financial reports, grant applications, budgeting, and audits
- Helps demonstrate compliance with regulations and funder requirements
- Saves time and improves accuracy with AI-powered automation
- Grows and adapts with evolving needs
- Combines gold-standard foundational technology with solutions designed for not-for-profits
- Has Microsoft's focus



Your trusted partner for Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central

50+

US-based professionals + offshore staff

150+

BC clients

Implementation, Recovery, Consulting International

7+

Average years D365 BC experience

5 Dedicated, but connected teams

- Pre-Sales Team
- Implementation Team
- Help Desk
- Managed Services Team
- Client Account Management

Deep Microsoft partnership

- Inner Circle Member
- "One Commercial Partner"
- Various Advisory Councils
- Frequent Beta Participants
- Co-author of Microsoft ERP Implementation Methodology

Top 1% Worldwide Microsoft D365 Partner

Deep industry expertise

- Manufacturing
- Distribution
- Equipment
- Field Service
- Construction
- Nonprofit

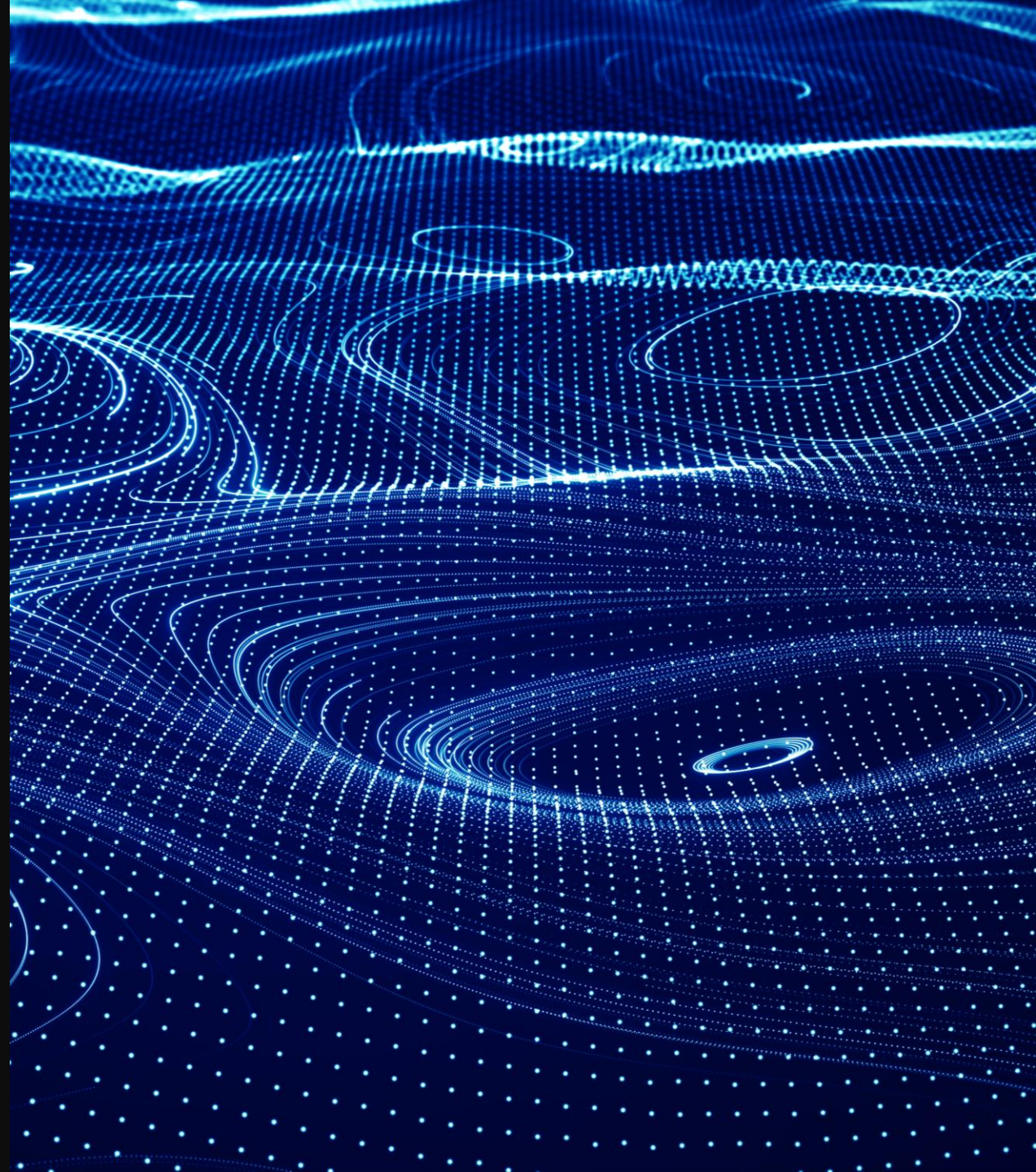
Subject matter expertise

- Modern Lifecycle Management
- ADO for BC
- On-Prem Dynamics to Business Central

Top 10 US BC Partner



■ 3 Levels for Nonprofits in Business Central



Level 1

No Self-Balancing Fund Accounting Required



Requirements this may fit

- Grant/Program reporting through only Revenue and Expense accounts
- Grant requirements are only financial
- Simple Allocations
- Budgeting and reporting needs are moderate
- A full grant lifecycle solution is not required
- Legal structure is relatively straightforward

What it can deliver

- Streamlined chart of accounts
- Reporting of Revenues and Expenses by grant, program, department, location, etc.
- Dimensional Statement of Activities
- Budget-to-actual visibility
- Drill-down to transactions
- Familiar Excel and Microsoft experience

Level 2

Basic Fund Accounting



Requirements this may fit

- Funds need to be maintained with separate trial balances
- Accounting for different legal Entities is required
- Due-to and due-from entries are significant
- Centralized purchasing, collections, or payments are needed
- Users need Fund/Entity-level access controls
- Reporting by Fund/Entity and by the Agency both matter

What the organization can gain:

- Multiple Funds managed within one Business Central company
- Automated due-to and due-from entries
- Security and Master Records by Fund
- Centralized or decentralized transaction models
- Separate financial reporting by Fund
- Greater visibility across related Funds

Level 3

Advanced Fund Accounting and Grant Management



Best aligned when the organization requires:

- Full nonprofit fund accounting
- Restricted, unrestricted, and endowment fund management
- Extensive grant and award management
- Compliance and restriction tracking
- Encumbrance or commitment visibility
- Complex cost allocations
- Advanced program and funding source reporting
- Broader nonprofit operational functionality
- Tightly integrated fundraising and finance

Fund accounting design still needs a reporting strategy

Who builds reports?

Who consumes them?

How much drill-down is needed?

Excel, dashboards, or ERP delivery?

Does budgeting require department participation?

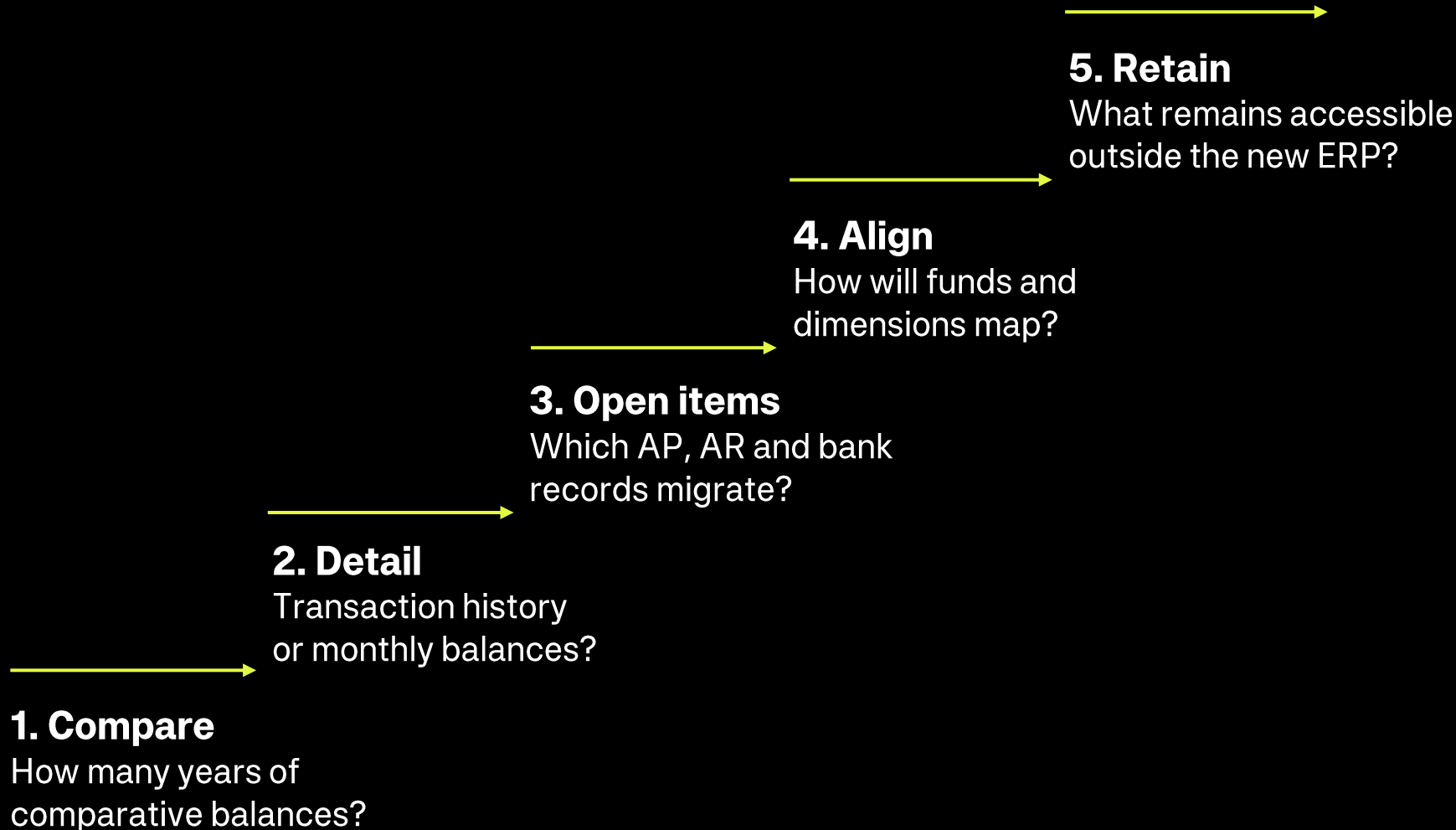
Financial + nonfinancial data?

Potential layers:

Business Central financial reports · Analysis mode · Power BI · other supported tools

Migration is also a design decision

Don't let historical data automatically recreate an outdated structure.



Are you comfortable with AI and your financial system?

Not many organizations are.



AI compliance & governance

Establish a strong foundation for AI governance, risk and compliance. Implement AI Governance framework aligning with ISO 42001, NIST, EU Act. Practical development or updates to policies and procedures. Recommendation on ongoing controls and monitoring to ensure audit-ready documentation will be in place.



AI policies & procedures

We build practical, actionable enterprise policies tailored to your operating reality. This includes acceptable use, data governance, model lifecycle management and human-in-the-loop controls. No shelfware. Just guidance people can follow.



AI strategy & roadmap

A deep dive into AI use case development, focusing on quantifying business value and assessing readiness to understand ROI and effort. Includes AI Governance guidance, AI roadmap, and implementation strategy. Quick-win Proof of Concepts to build momentum and engagement.

■ Practical AI uses for your preparation



Process
Workflows



Functional
Specifications



Chart of
Accounts
Design



Data
Cleansing

Practical AI uses during your implementation



Data
Mapping



ERP Configuration
Recommendations



Imported Data
Validation



Personalized Training
Documents

A practical next step: a GP-to-BC complimentary fund accounting assessment

Preserve what works. Improve what doesn't.

01

Document

Current fund +
grant model

02

Identify

Essential controls
+ reports

03

Evaluate

The different
solution options

04

Design

High-level future
state

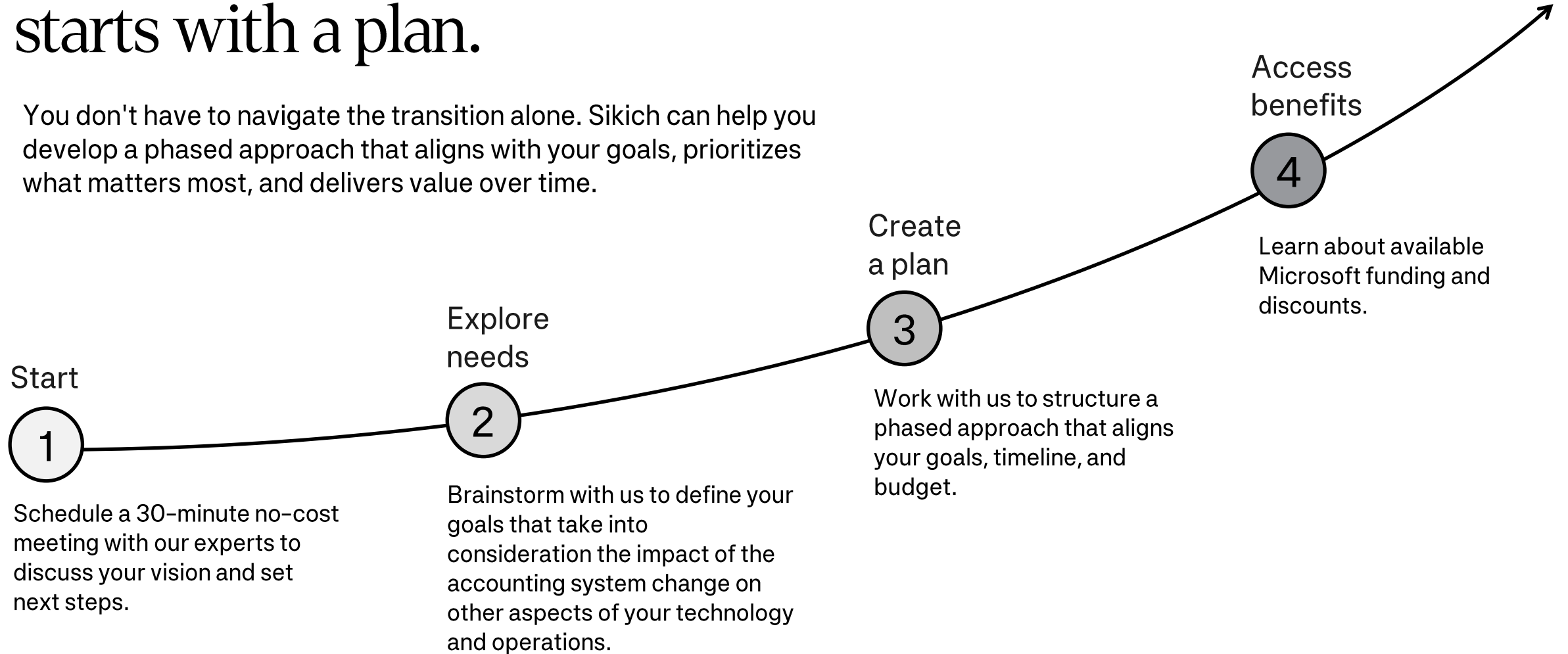
05

Roadmap

Phased migration
approach

Your technology transformation starts with a plan.

You don't have to navigate the transition alone. Sikich can help you develop a phased approach that aligns with your goals, prioritizes what matters most, and delivers value over time.



Take the guesswork out of your migration

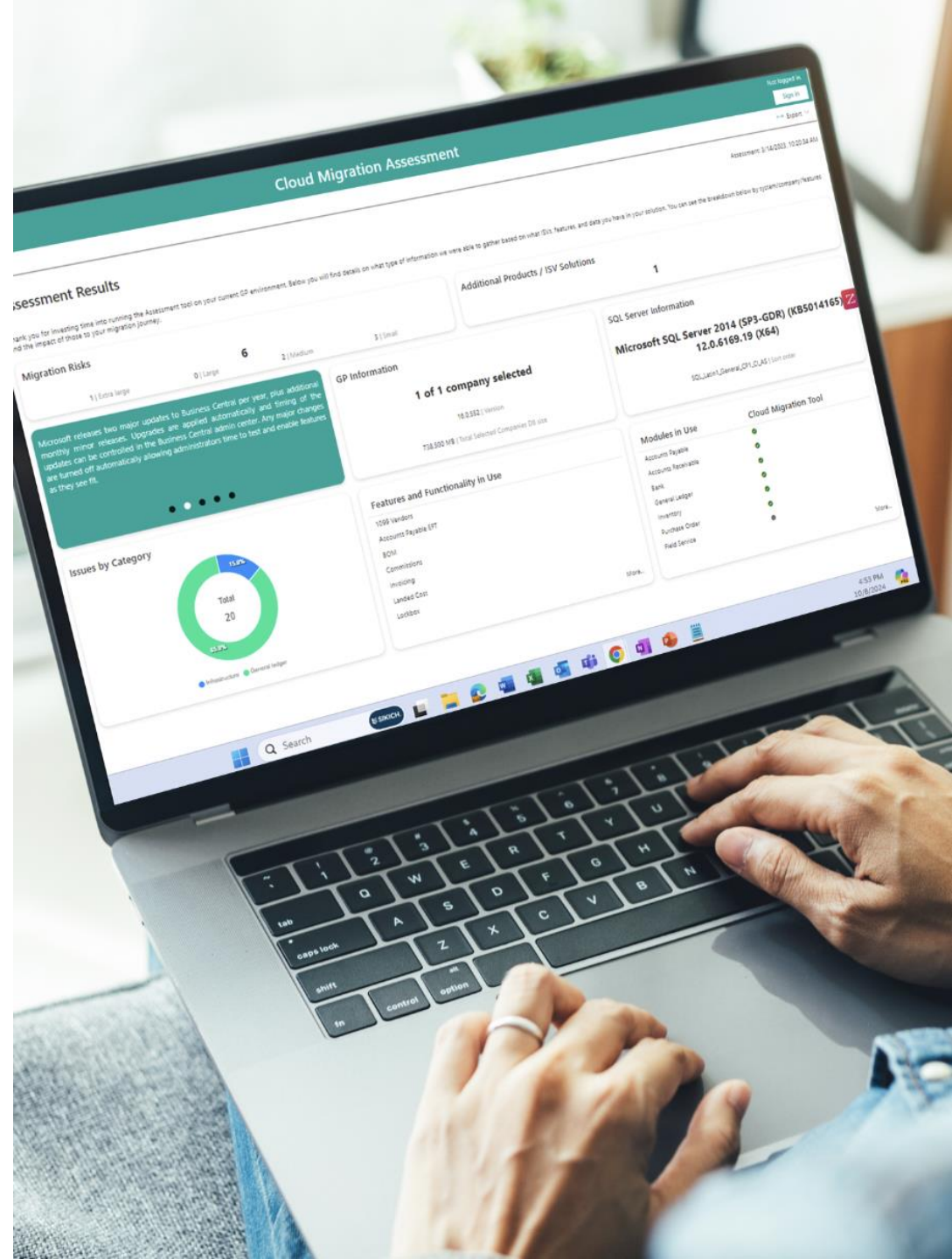
A complimentary assessment designed to:

- Clarify the proposed solution
- Prepare a more precise implementation estimate
- Provide a high-level project timeline



Scan the code or
click the button!

GET STARTED



Take three questions back to your team

CIRCLE YOUR TOP 3

☐ What does “fund accounting” mean in our organization?

☐ Financial grant tracking only or full grant lifecycle?

☐ How are shared costs allocated?

☐ How could the budget cycle be improved?

☐ Are encumbrances required?

☐ What processes should have approval workflows?

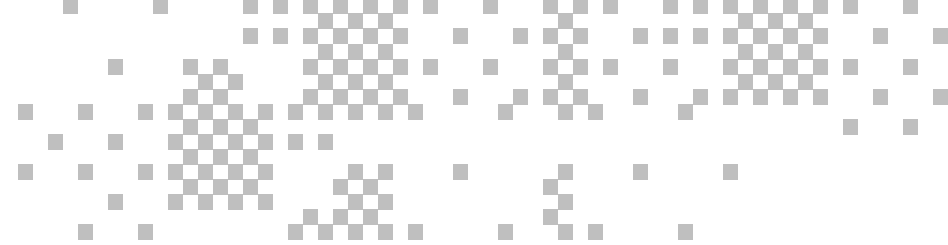
☐ Is cash or AP centralized?

☐ Which reports are non-negotiable?

☐ Which spreadsheets should disappear?

☐ How will we handle legacy data?

☐ What key processes should be in in phase 1?



Continue exploring nonprofit financial strategies

Check out these blogs for practical insights to improve financial visibility and streamline processes.

FEATURED READING

Reserve Strategies for Financial Clarity

One reserve number doesn't tell the whole story. Explore a more thoughtful approach to evaluating your nonprofit's financial position and supporting board-level decisions.

[Read the article →](#)

ADDITIONAL READING

Explore our six-part nonprofit finance series:

1. [Close month-end books with confidence](#)
2. [Eliminate Excel workarounds](#)
3. [Simplify grant tracking](#)
4. [Improve procurement](#)
5. [Build better budgets](#)
6. [Connect fundraising and finance](#)



Q&A



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