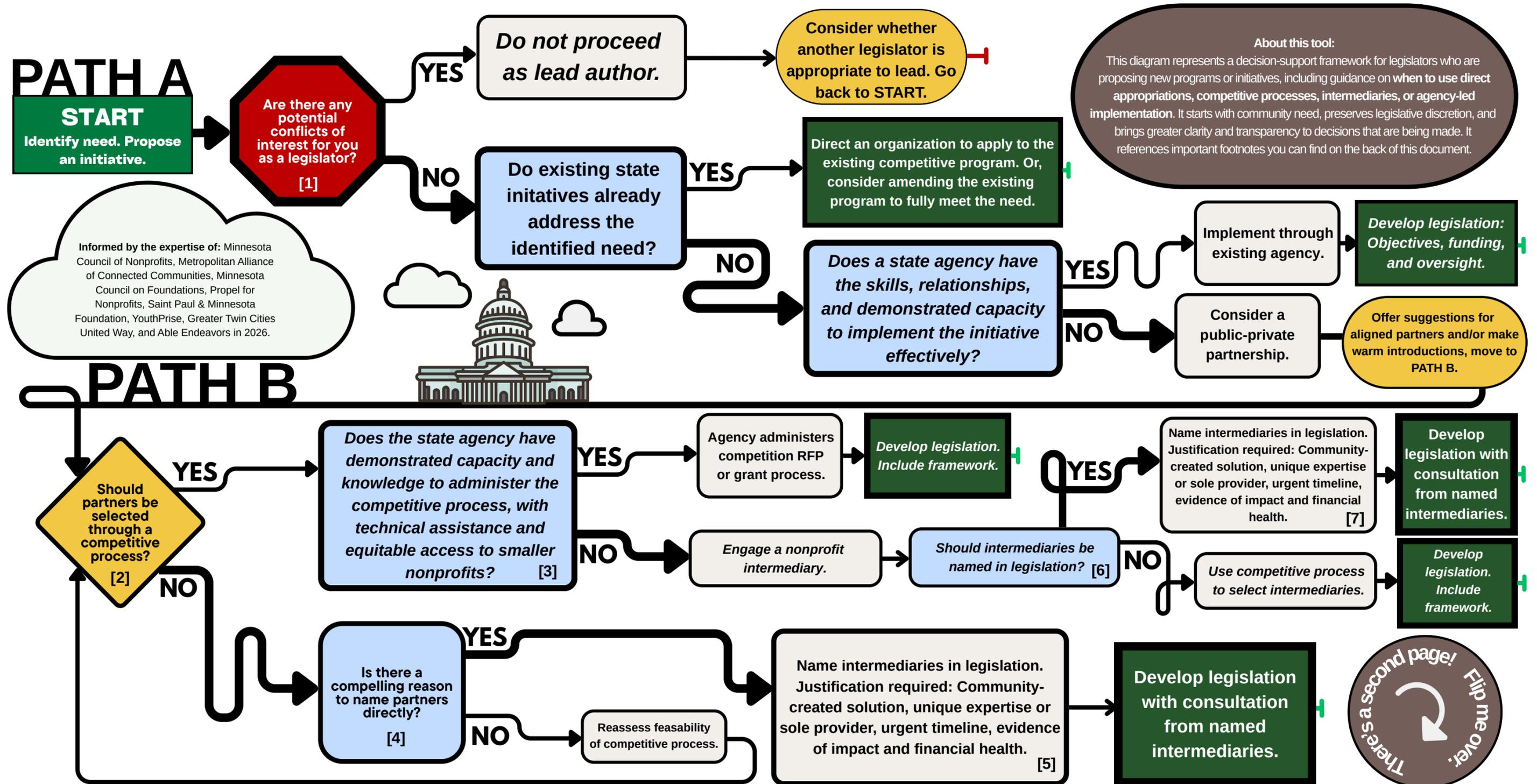


# Legislative Initiatives Decision Tool



# Footnotes & Key Questions for a Legislator



- 1** **Do I have a real or perceived conflict of interest in leading on this effort?** If so, this could harm the bill's chances as well as potentially damage the reputation of the named entity and the legislator. Consider if another legislator would be more appropriate to lead on the bill. Minn. Stat. 10A.07
- 2** **What existing state programs or initiatives already support the identified community need or opportunity?** Consider if a new program or initiative is needed, or if an existing program or initiative can meet the need or could be amended to do so. If a nonprofit is seeking a direct appropriation to do work that is already supported by an existing competitive program, ascertain if there is something unique that would require a direct appropriation. If not, direct them to apply to the existing program.
- 3** **Have I checked with the state agency that would administer it?** Speak with state agency leadership to discern capacity, expertise, or ability to implement a new program or initiative, to avoid stalled work. Inquire as to how this work would align with or complement existing mandates, goals and/or efforts.
- 4** **Is there something about this solution that would be difficult to replicate through a competitive process?** Would a competitive process risk excluding community-rooted expertise the Legislature is trying to support? Is this for sole provider? Is there critical cultural expertise, trust, relationships, or place-based knowledge limited by scale?  
*The following serve as examples: a pilot, demonstration, urgent need, or time-limited innovation that is not yet well suited to a standardized RFP.*
- 5** **Have I checked in with the nonprofit or other entity proposing the funding?**  
Inquire about the entity's capacity, expertise, or ability to implement a new program or initiative.
- 6** **Before naming an entity in a bill, have I consulted with that group to ensure they are interested and able to do this work?**  
No organization should be surprised to be included in a bill.
- 7** **For direct appropriations to nonprofits and/or nonprofit intermediaries, have you confirmed that the organization has demonstrated evidence of impact and financial health?** Does the organization's request have support from the community it serves? Does the organization have the financial health and infrastructure to do this work at the size and scale of the direct appropriation and fulfill administrative/reporting expectations?