

Pre-implementation of drug supply testing at a local syringe service program

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Southern Nevada Health District



Background Southern Nevada Health District

- Local health department
- Clark County, NV (Las Vegas metropolitan area)
2.2 million population (2019)
Nearly 75% of Nevada's population
- Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance is the recipient of OD2A funds
- Close collaboration with community partners



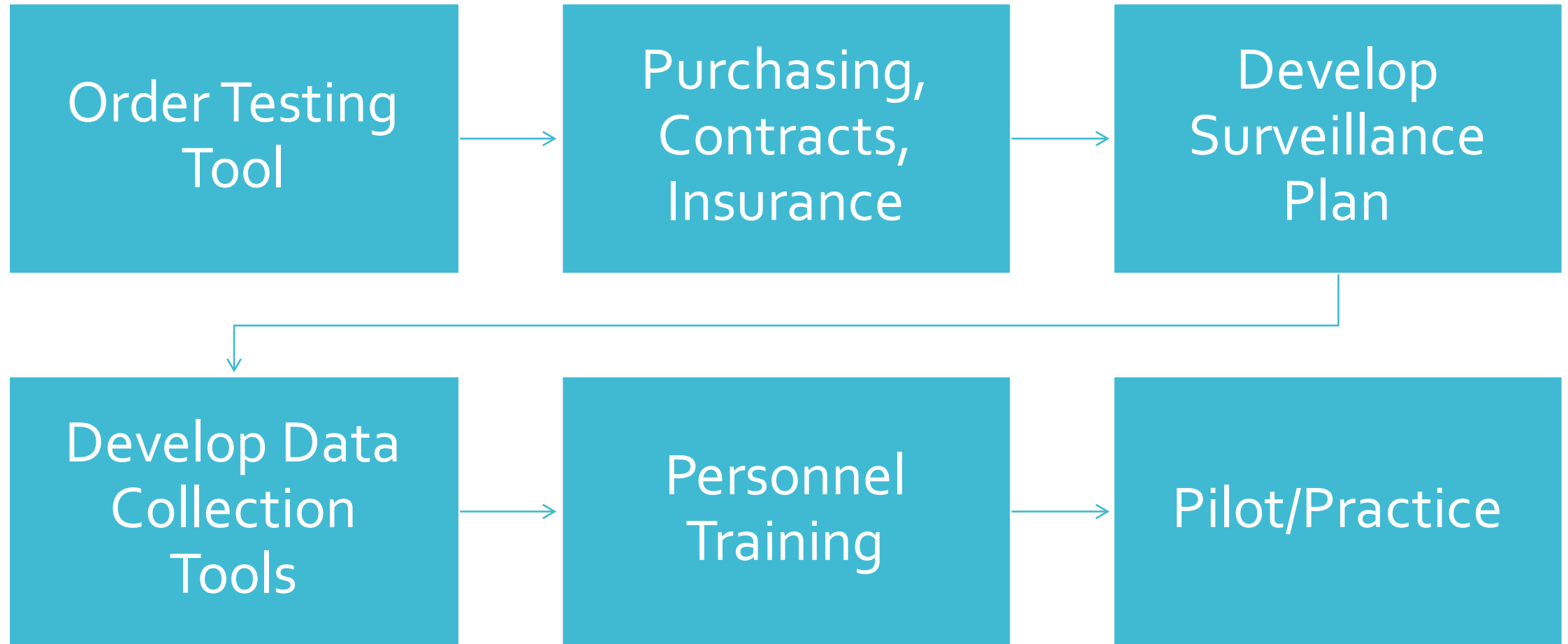
Background

Trac-B / Impact Exchange SSP

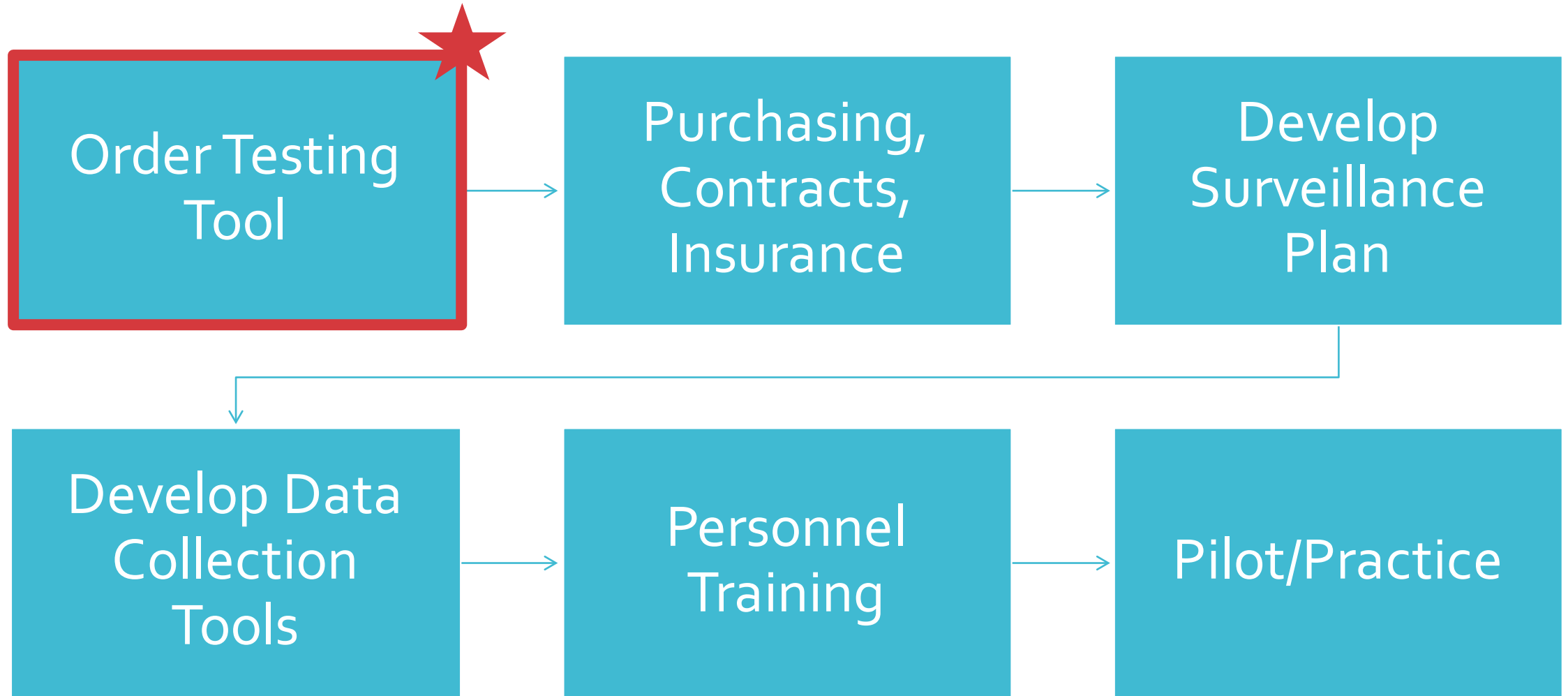
- Opened in 2017
- Services include, but not limited to:
 - Full service sterile syringe exchange and disposal program (storefront, vending, mobile outreach and shipping)
 - Public health vending machine program includes Naloxone and other harm reduction supplies
 - HIV/Hep C Testing
 - Linkage to MAT and supportive services
 - Drug use and overdose data collection
 - Testing drug supply via returned injection supplies



Pre-Implementation Process



Pre-Implementation Process



Order testing tool

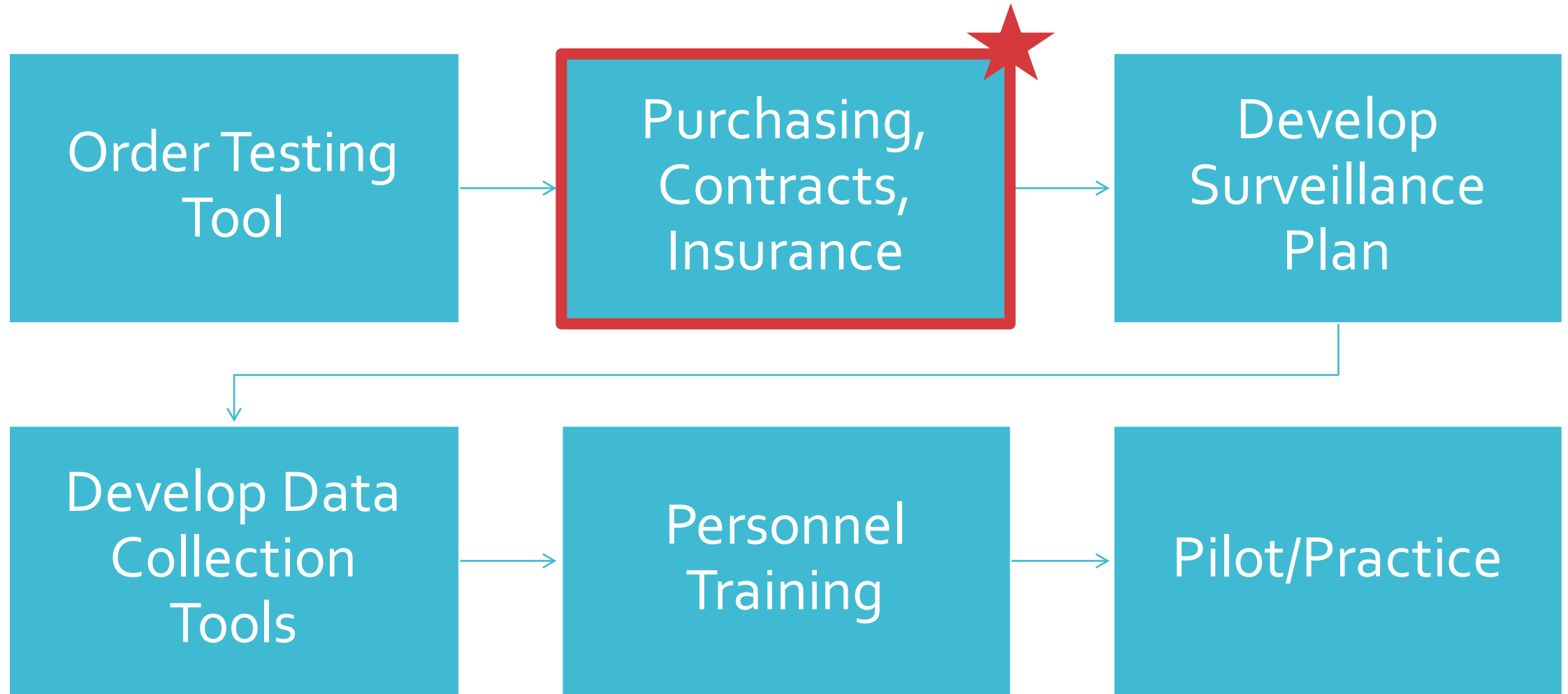
Items to consider:

- Legality
- Functionality
 - Ability to test dark substances (black tar heroin)
- Expense
- Vendor
 - Do they provide formal trainings? Technical assistance?
- Size
 - Portable? Stationary?

Picture source: <https://go8devices.com/products/mxgo8/>



Pre-Implementation Process



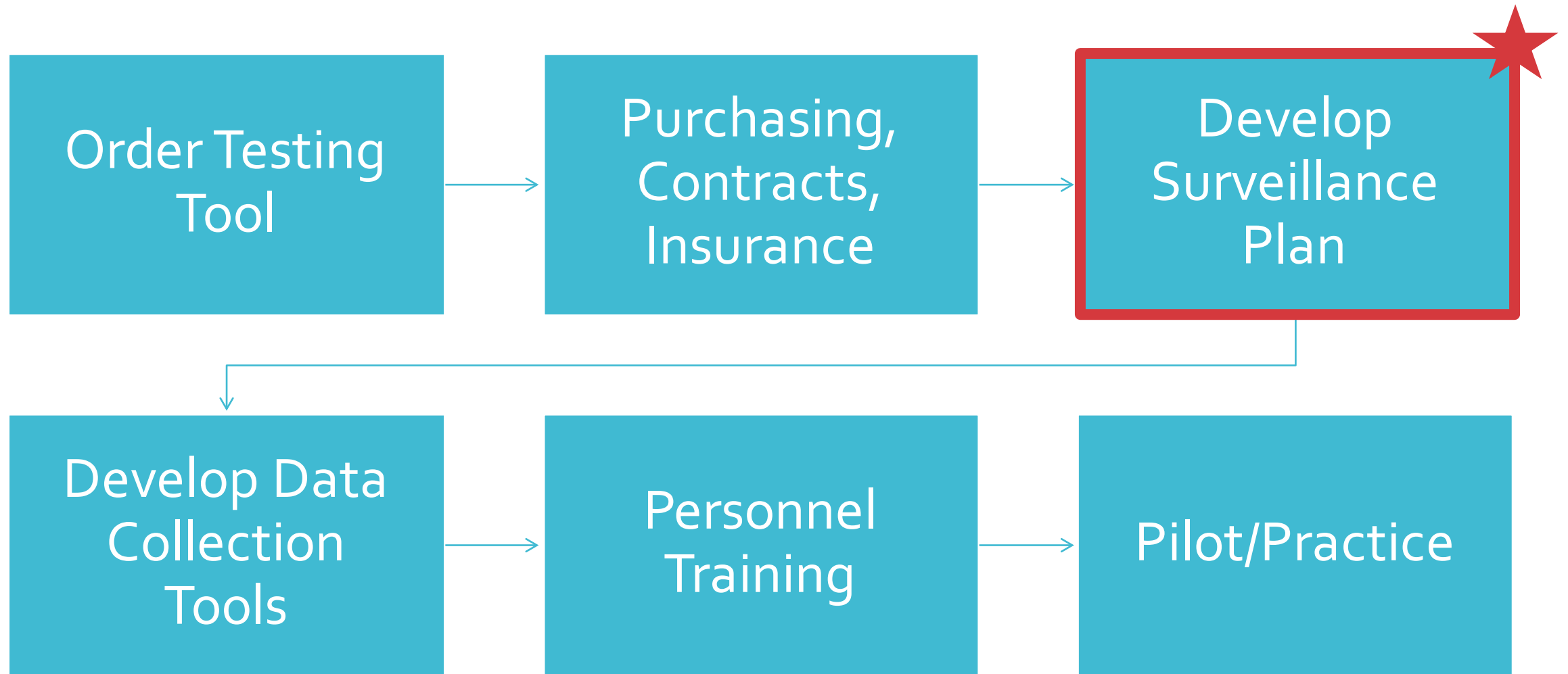
Purchasing, Contracts, Insurance

Most time-consuming part of the process

Much of the program was on hold during this phase

Important to keep in communication with all involved parties

Pre-Implementation Process

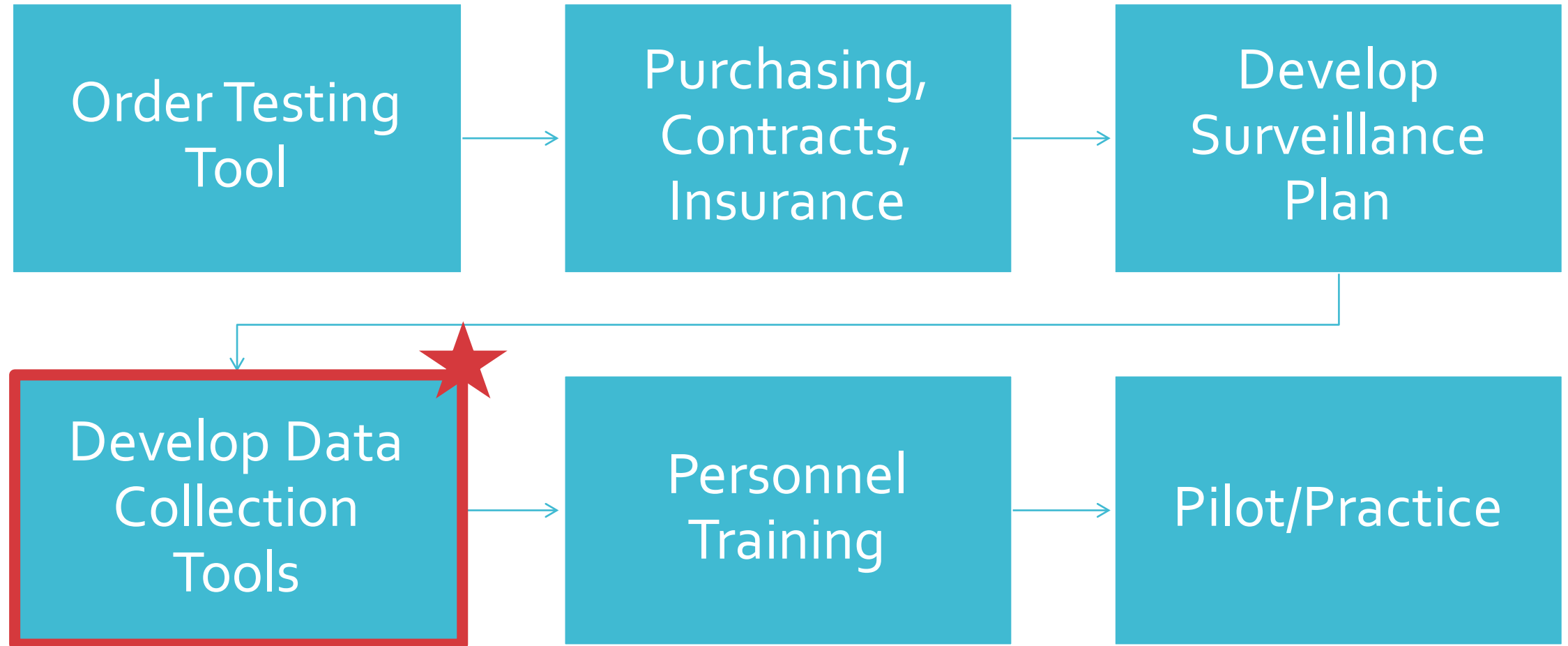


Develop Surveillance Plan

Addressed the following areas:

- General description of program
- Location of where testing will occur
- Supplies being tested
- Random testing vs client participation
- Data collection from clients and testing results
- Engaging participants/ incentives
- Cross-validation
- Safety protocols
- Technique/Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Pre-Implementation Process



Data Collection

Data source #1: Participant survey (if applicable)

ZIP code of use, types of drugs used (multi-select), source of drugs (multi-select), uniqueID



Data source #2: Drug testing results

Date of test, label number, supply type (syringe, foil, etc.), supply result (multi-select). May test up to 6 items per participant.



Data collection tool

Alchemer survey, daily export sent to TracB and SNHD

2021 OD2A Illicit Drug Testing Survey

2. Item 1 Type

-- Please Select -- ▾

3. Item 1 Test Result

☐ Heroin

☐ Cocaine

☐ Fentanyl

☐ Methamphetamine

☐ Other - Write In (Required)

*

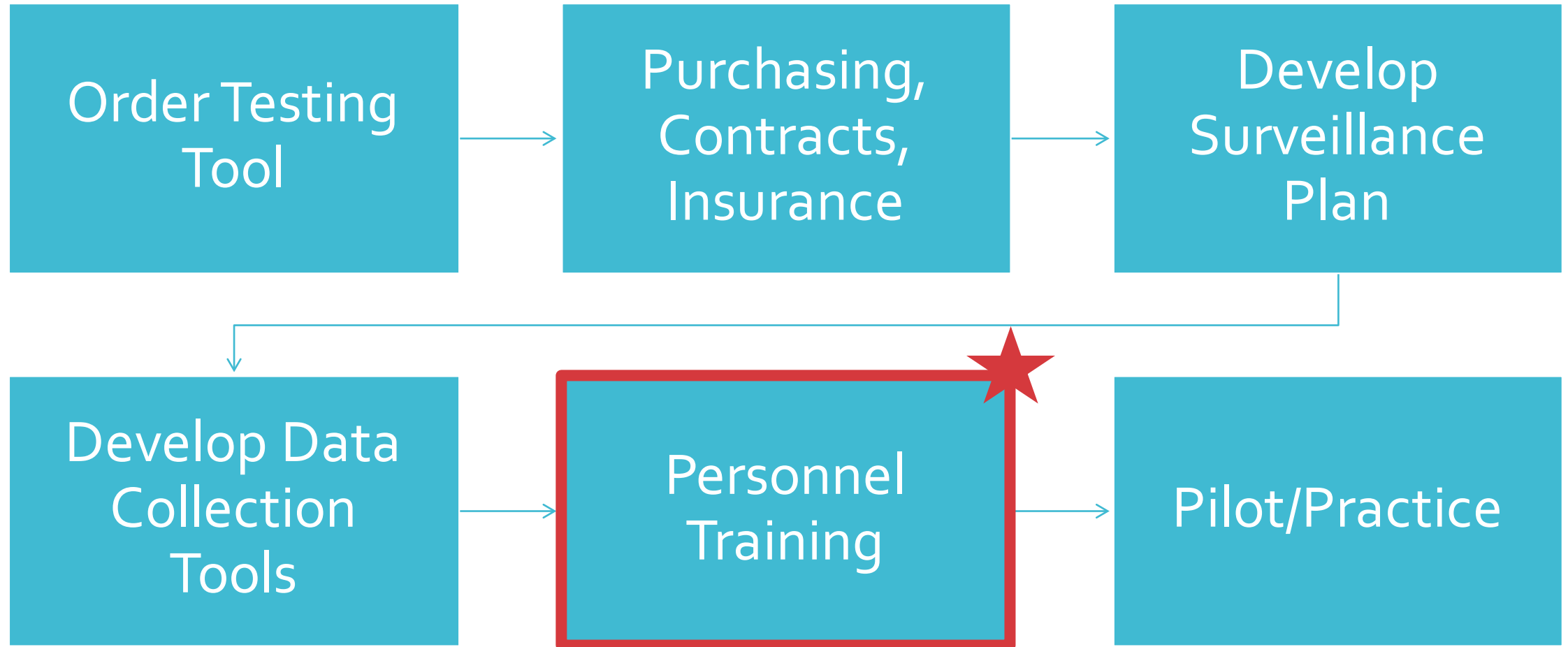
☐ Inconclusive

Back

Submit

67%

Pre-Implementation Process



Personnel Training

Highly technical tool

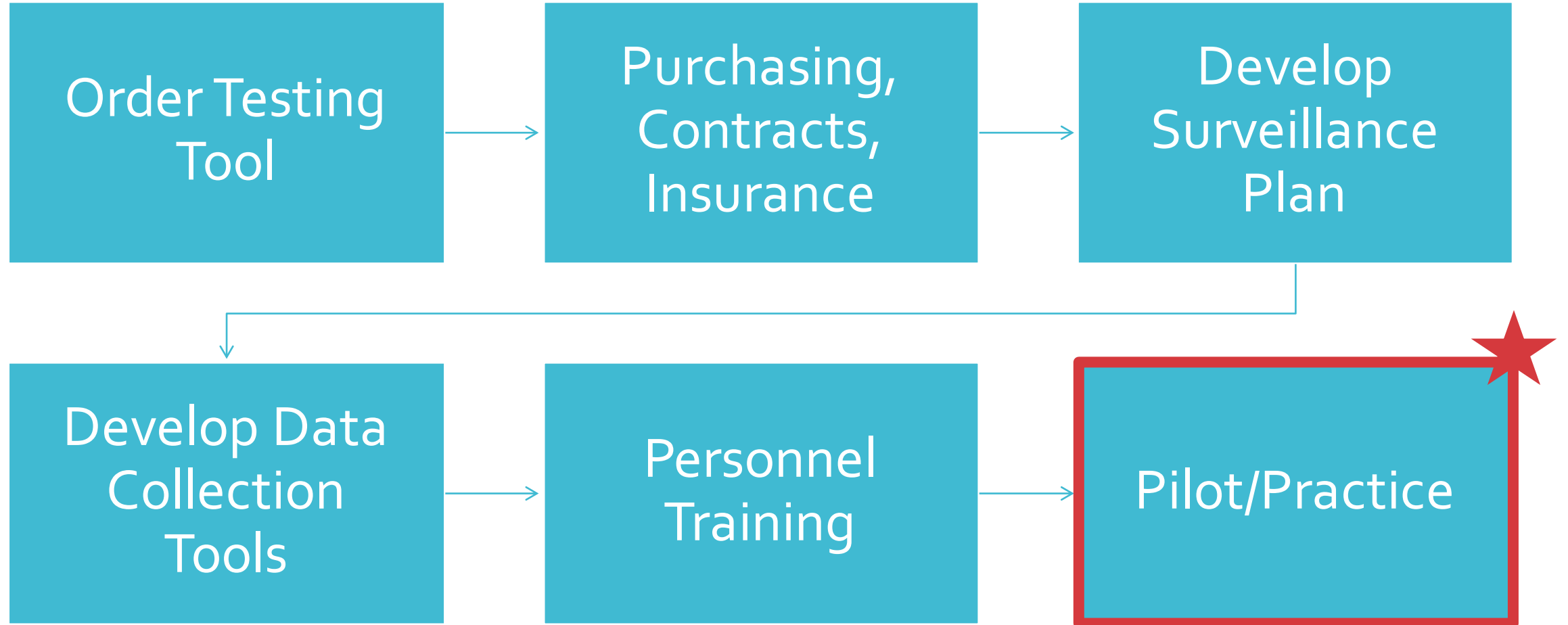
Vendor provided in-person training

Limit access to tool and store in secure location (alarm on premises)

Safety is number one priority



Pre-Implementation Process



Pilot/Practice

Certain supplies yield fewer results (i.e. cookers, cotton, and foils yield better results than syringes)

Dry testing vs. wet testing (application of sterile water)

Revisions to data collection tool

Contact

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