

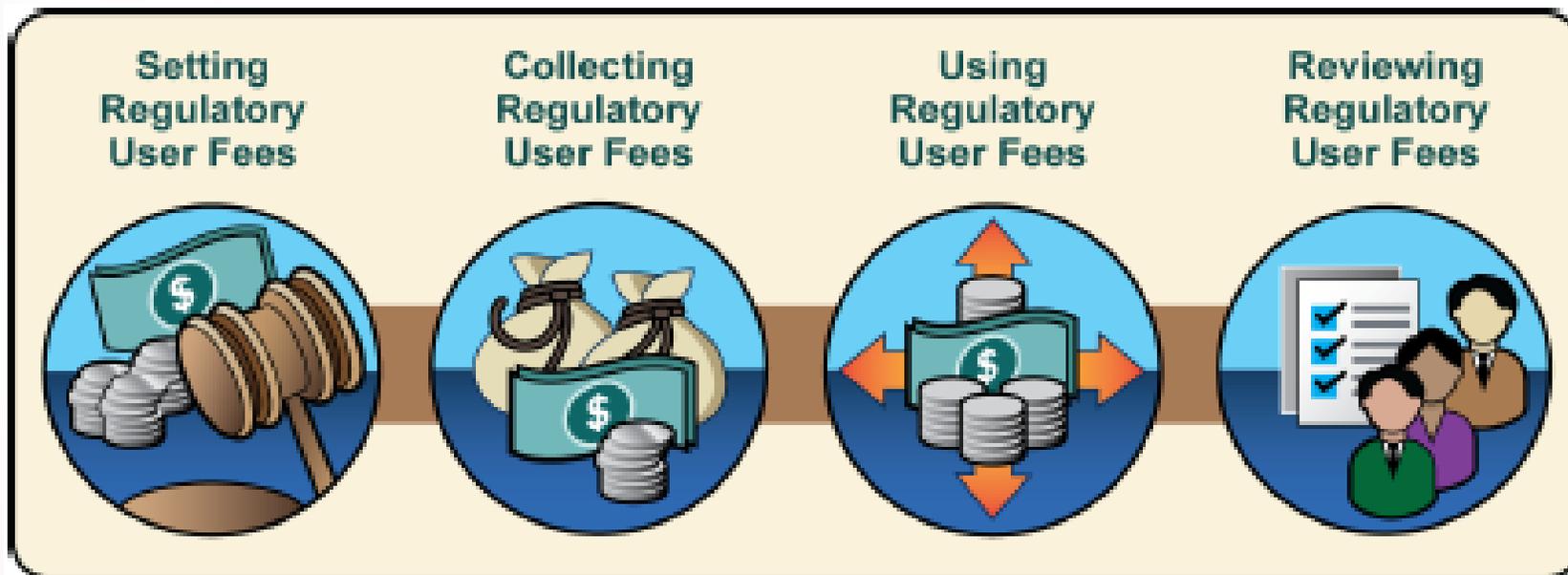
# **Regulatory User Fees: Key Questions and Considerations**

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**NRC Briefing on Fee Process  
Rockville, MD**

**Heather Krause  
Acting Director, Strategic Issues  
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)  
September 16, 2016**

## Key Questions for Designing and Implementing Regulatory User Fees



Source: GAO. | GAO-15-718

GAO, *Federal User Fees: Key Considerations for Designing and Implementing Regulatory Fees*, [GAO-15-718](#) (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 16, 2015)

# Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

## Research Objectives

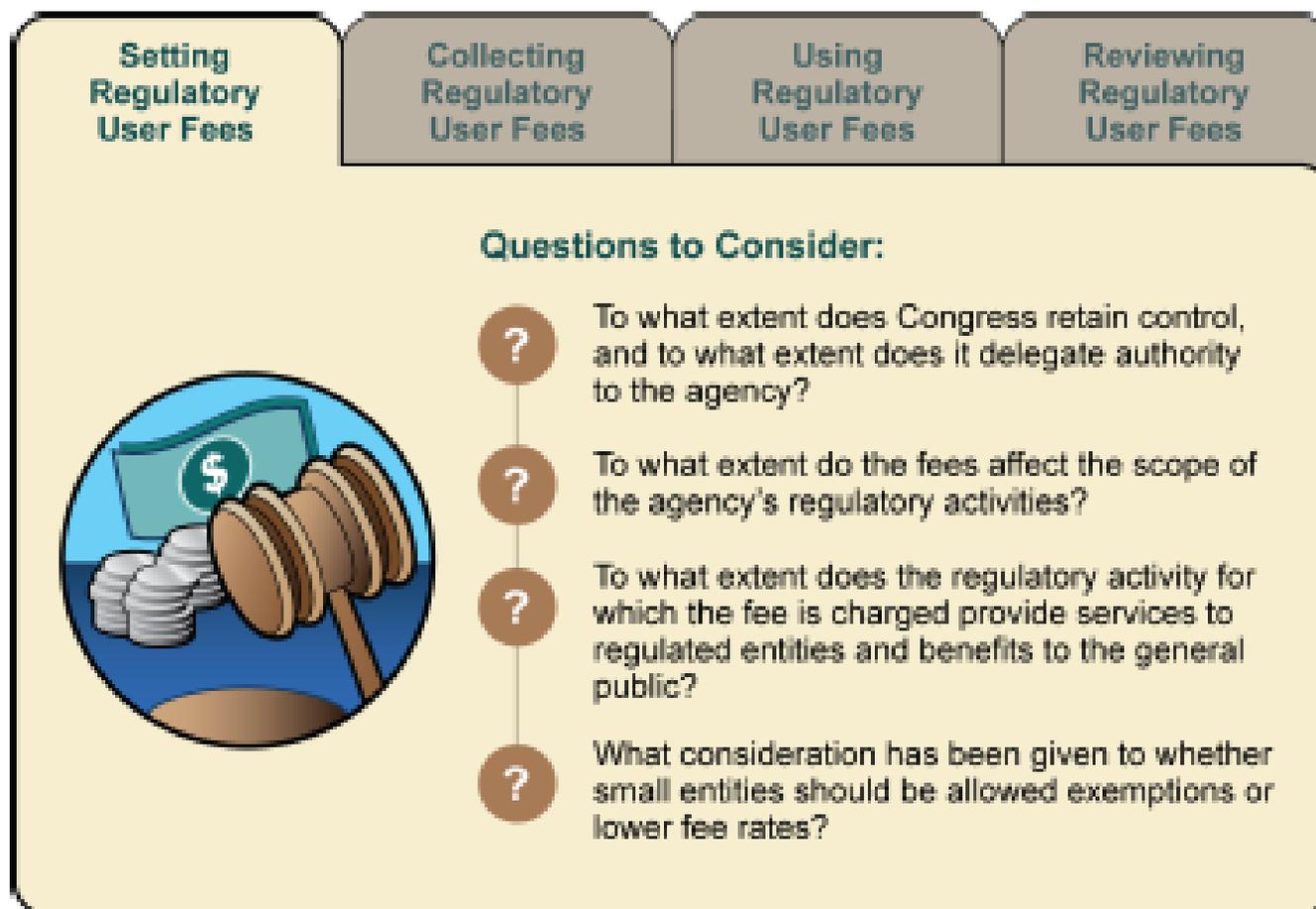
GAO identified design and implementation characteristics for regulatory user fees in terms of how they are:

- Set,
- Collected,
- Used, and
- Reviewed

## Scope and Methodology

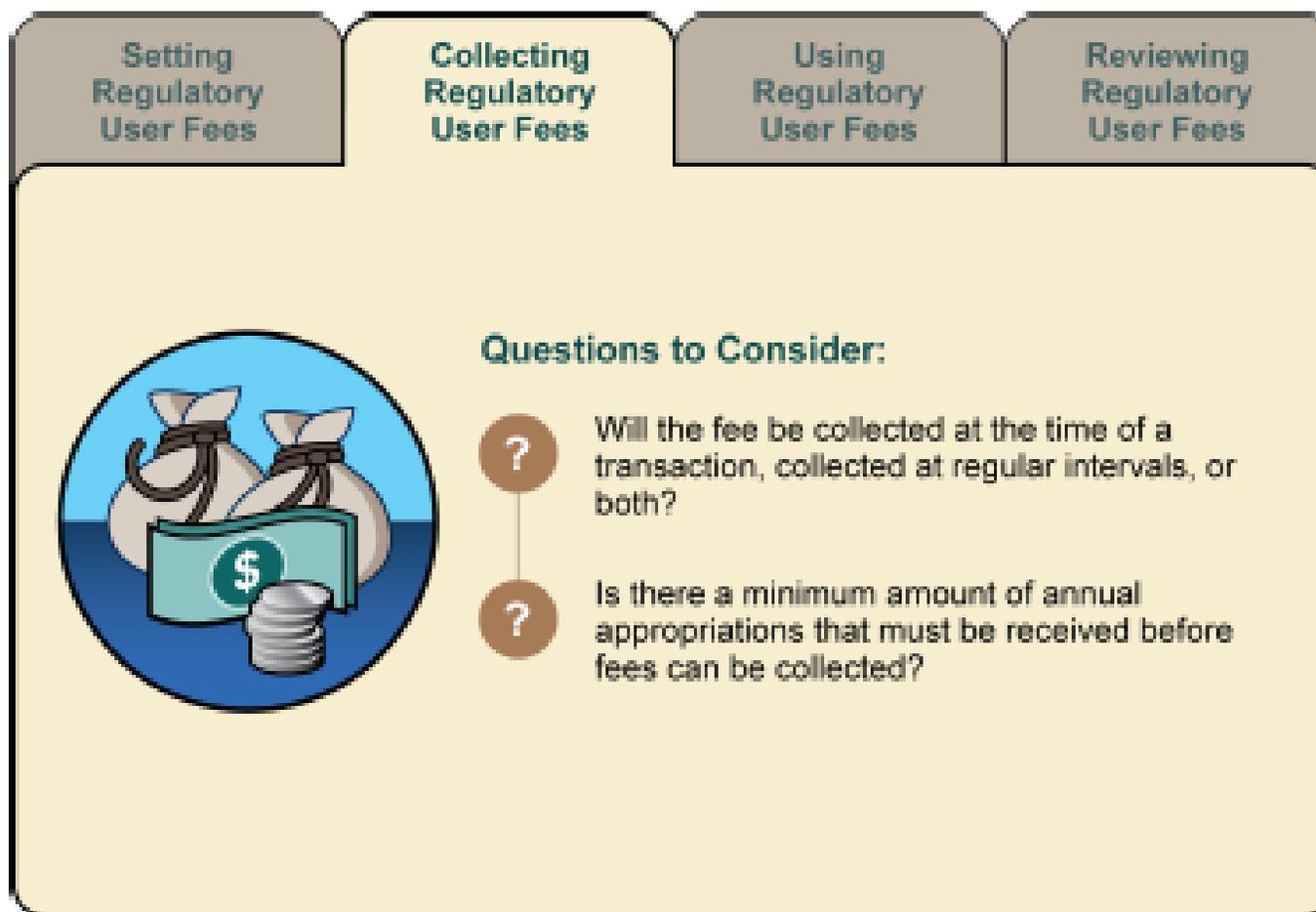
- Reviewed relevant literature,
- Analyzed 10 fees within 6 agencies,
- Examined stakeholder views on these fees, and
- Held a multi-agency panel discussion to ensure broad applicability of findings.

# Setting Regulatory User Fees

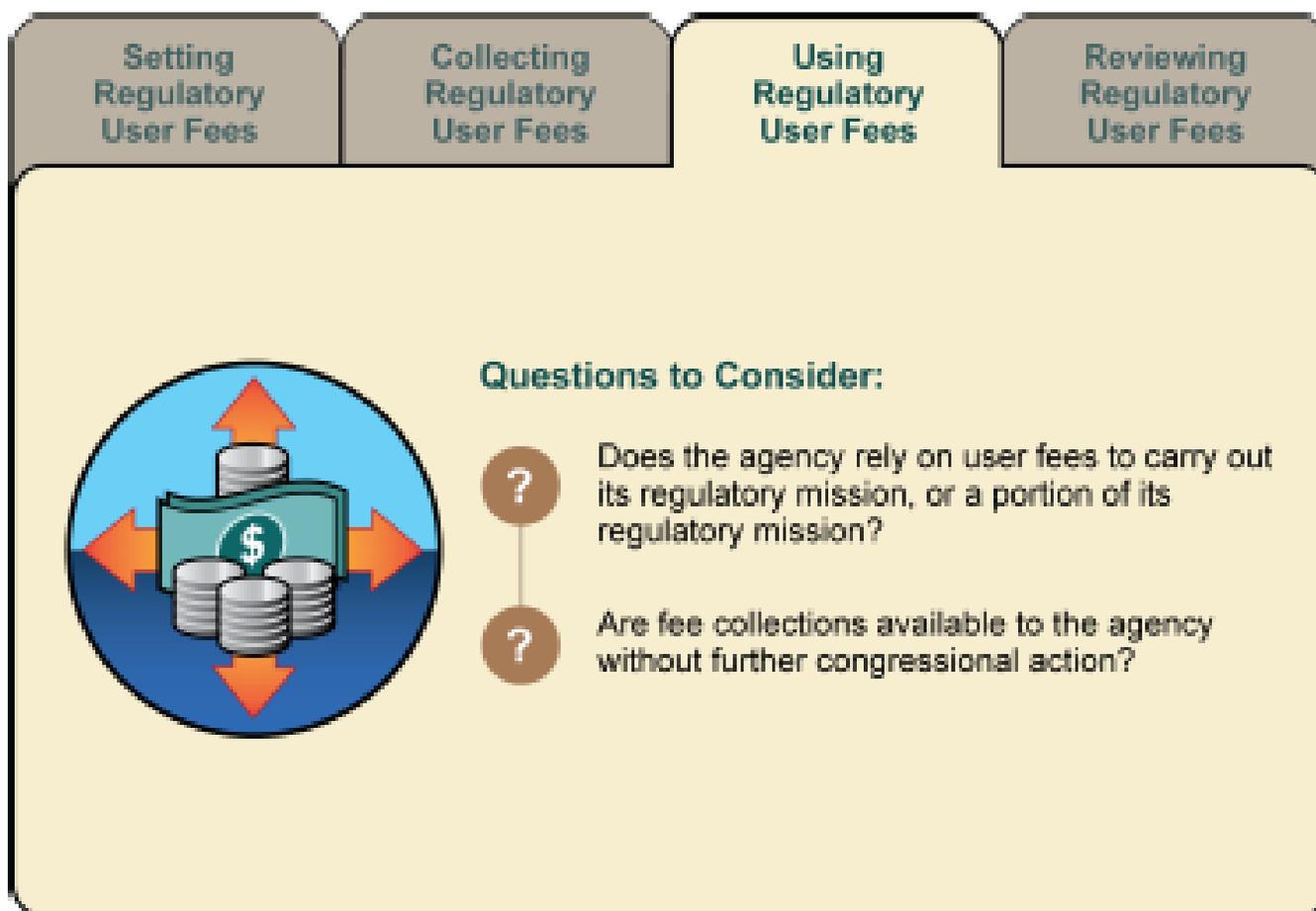


Source: GAO. | GAO-15-718

# Collecting Regulatory User Fees

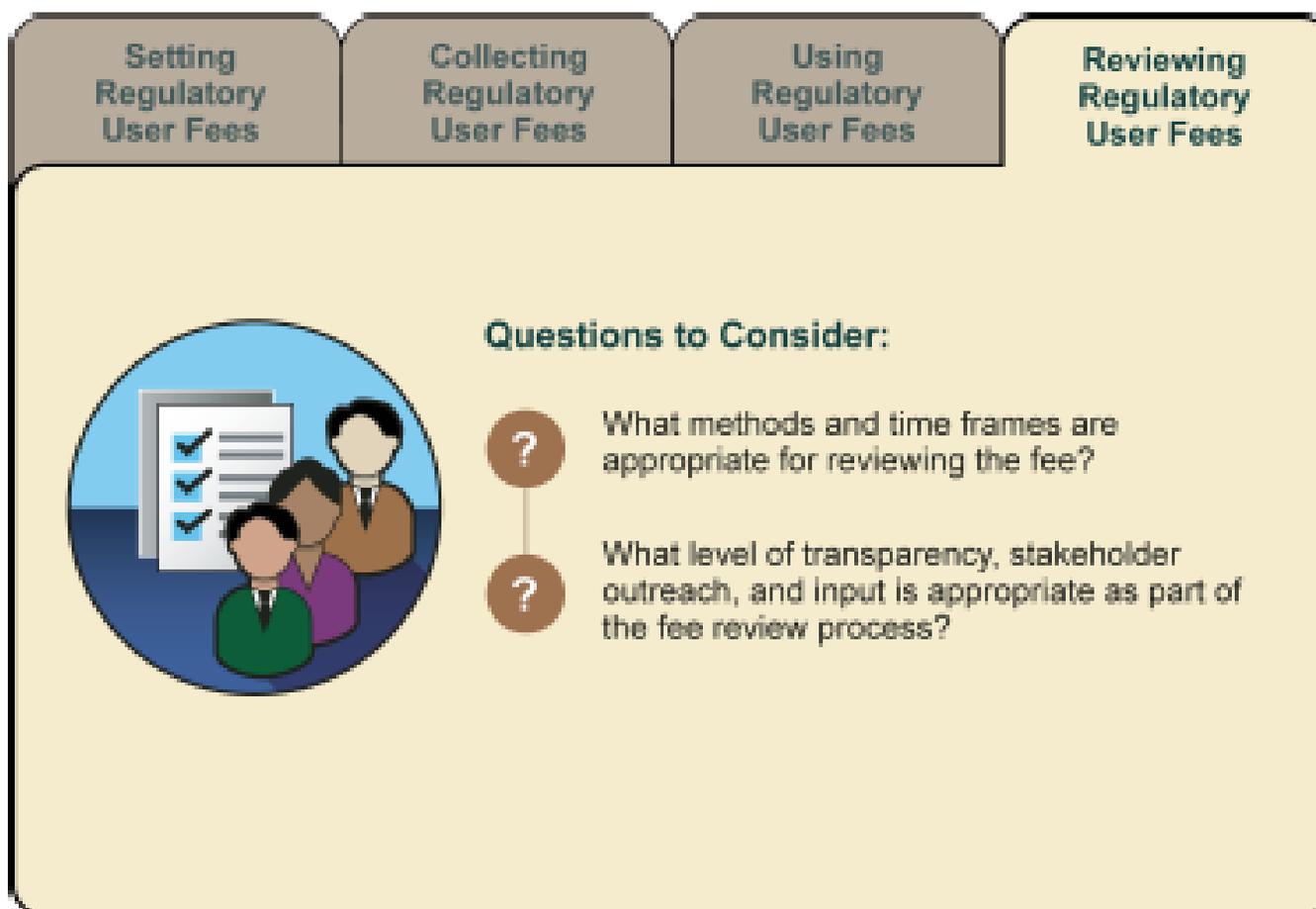


# Using Regulatory User Fees



Source: GAO. | GAO-15-718

# Reviewing Regulatory User Fees



Source: GAO. | GAO-15-718

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## Regulatory User Fees: Providing for Public Participation and Transparency

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- Given the mix of public benefits and services to users, it is important for regulatory fee structures and program costs to be transparent.
- Agencies can promote transparency by providing appropriate information to address the diverse needs of policymakers, fee payers, and the general public.
- Appropriate stakeholder involvement and dissemination of information can help to avoid the appearance of regulatory capture.



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