

*A national program to coordinate readiness
and accelerate deployment*

Email: ai-ready@nsf.gov



Important Deadlines for round 1
State/Territory Coordination Hubs:
Letter of Intent: June 16, 2026
Full Proposal: July 16, 2026
**(Due by 5 p.m. submitting
organization's local time)**

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AI-READY AMERICA

Webinar for Solicitation NSF 26-508:
State/Territory Coordination Hubs

April 23 2026



Agenda

Opening and Program Overview	Michal Ziv-El (NSF/TIP)
Remarks from Federal Partners	Rubella Goswami (USDA-NIFA), Nathan Putnam (SBA), Taylor Stockton (DOL)
Q&A Panel	Greg Peterson (NSF/CISE), Nasser Alaraje (NSF/EDU), Michal Ziv-El (NSF/TIP), Ilana Herold (NSF Contractor)
Closing	Michal Ziv-El

- Questions can be submitted in the webinar Q&A or emailed to ai-ready@nsf.gov
- Webinar recording will be available on the program's initiative page: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/ai-ready>
- Direct link to NSF-26-508: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/techaccess-ai-ready-america>

Program Overview



TECHACCESS:

AI-READY AMERICA



Mission:

Expand access to AI knowledge, tools, training, and capacity building so all Americans can participate in — and benefit from — the AI economy.

Impact:

A future where every individual, community, and business in America thrives in an AI-driven economy.

Primary Beneficiaries:

Individuals • Small Businesses • Civic Organizations
• Workforce

Program Definitions:

AI-Ready = continuum of literacy, proficiency, and fluency (understand, apply, create).

AI-literacy starts with “Why AI?” and “When AI?”



Program Summary

1. State/Territory Coordination

Hubs (Coordination Hubs):

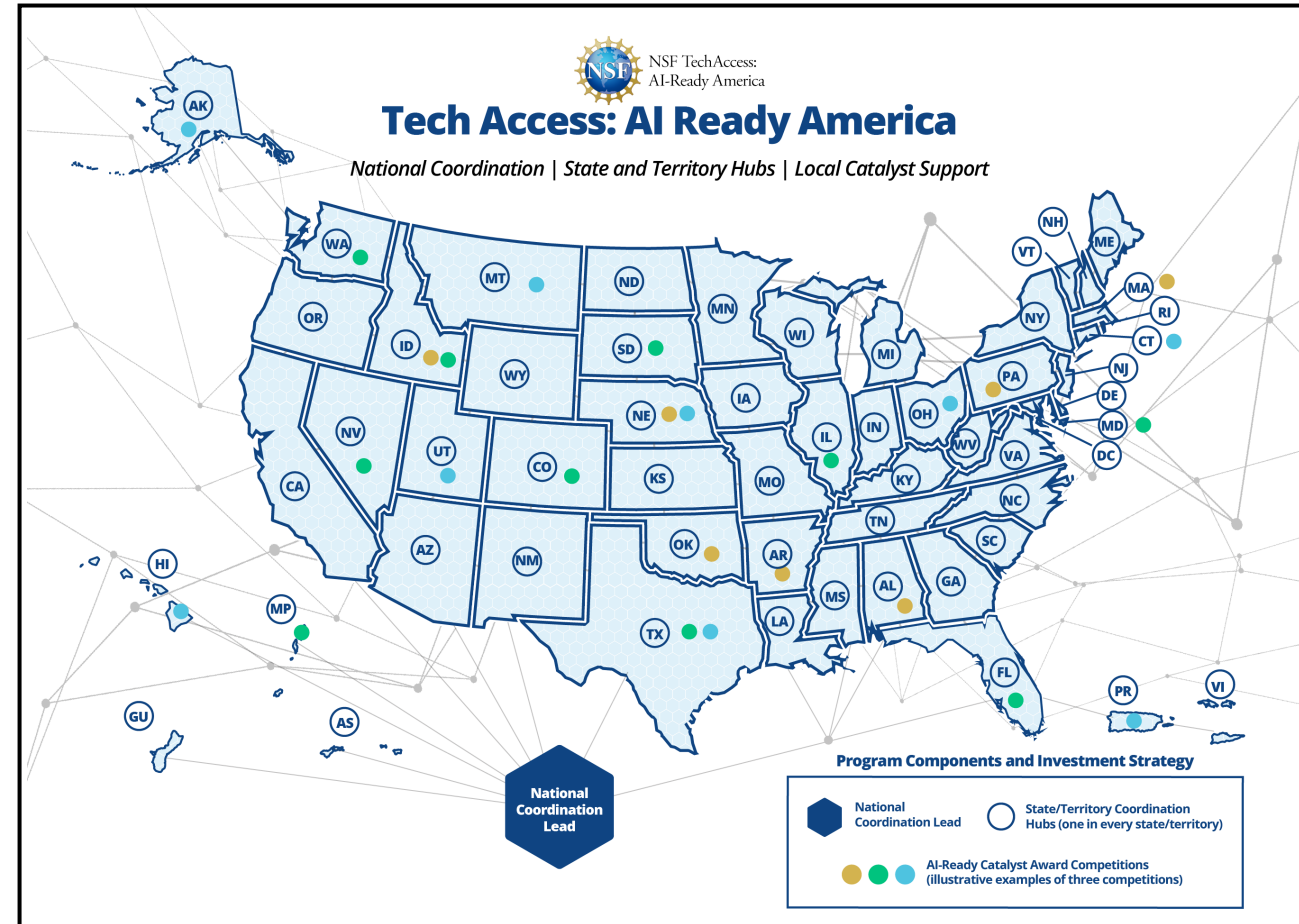
one in every state/territory of the United States connecting partners, strengthening planning and deployment, and rapidly scaling approaches.

2. **A National Coordination Lead (National**

Lead): facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing among Coordination Hubs, coordinating priority economic sectors, and informing national AI strategies.

3. **AI-Ready Catalyst Award Competitions:**

a series of topic-driven competitions issued over the course of the program to pilot and scale innovative approaches that address critical national AI needs.

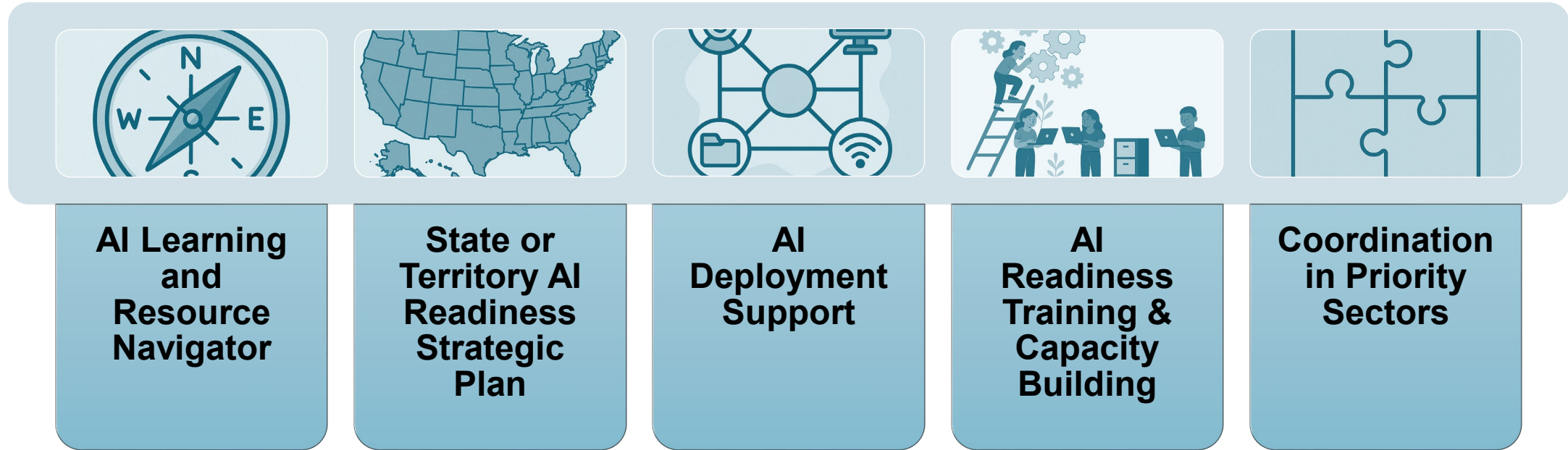


Additional funding calls will be posted on the initiative page as they are released:

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/ai-ready>

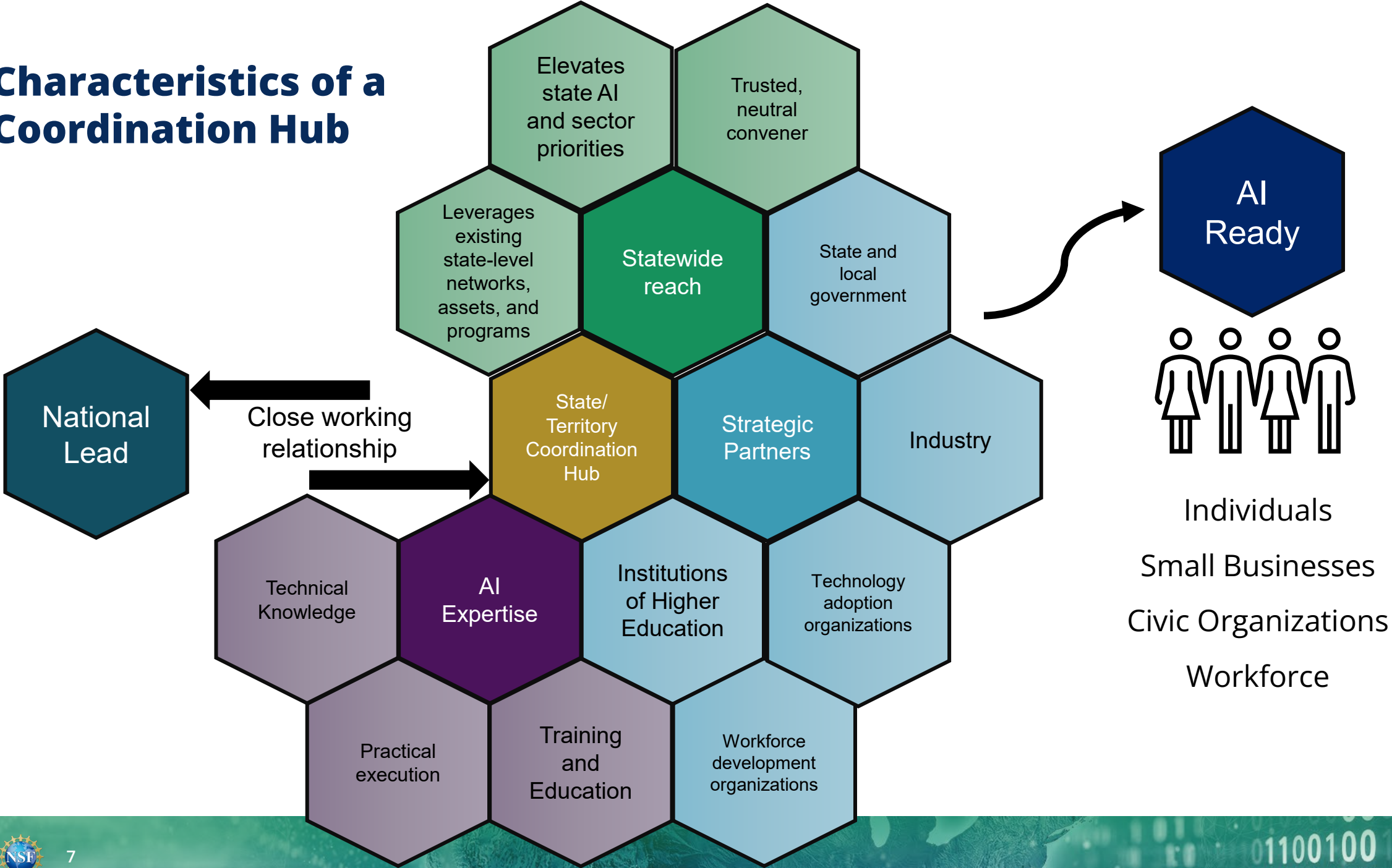


State/Territory Coordination Hubs Responsibilities



Hubs serve as the center of state/territory-wide coordination to accelerate AI readiness and deployment, in coordination with the National Lead.

Characteristics of a Coordination Hub





Coordination across the federal government



Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP)

Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)

Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)



Working Group Members

For program questions/inquiries, email: ai-ready@nsf.gov



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Greg Peterson
Program Director, NSF/CISE



Nasser Alaraje
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Sarah Dunton
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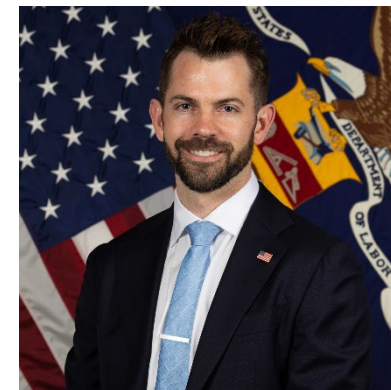
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US Small Business
Administration



Rubella Goswami
Deputy Director Institute of
Youth, Family and
Community, USDA-NIFA



Taylor Stockton
Chief Innovation
Officer, US
Department of Labor

Remarks from Federal Partners



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USDA



NIFA

Rubella Goswami
Deputy Director Institute of
Youth, Family and
Community, USDA-NIFA



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Nathan Putnam
Senior Policy Advisor, US
Small Business
Administration



Taylor Stockton

Chief Innovation Officer, US
Department of Labor

Frequently Asked Questions



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Q: Which AI tools and infrastructure are supported and recommended, and how should tooling be selected?

A: The AI-Ready America program **does not recommend or prioritize** specific AI tools, models, or infrastructure.

- Coordination Hubs should identify tools and resources that align with their state or territory's needs

Additional AI Infrastructure and Research Support at NSF:

- National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR): <https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/nairr>
- NSF Artificial Intelligence Focus area page: <https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai>



Q: How will the program support AI education across K-16 systems?

A: AI-Ready America State/Territory Coordination Hubs are expected to **coordinate** across their state's K-16 and workforce systems

- Proposing entities should consider appropriate partners in their local education systems, including education beyond the classroom
- Later, Catalyst Award Competitions may support education-related activities

More on NSF investments in AI education and workforce development:

- [Workforce Development - Artificial Intelligence NSF](https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/workforce) – <https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/workforce>



Eligibility to Serve as State/Territory Coordination Hub Lead

Eligibility criteria:

Eligible:

Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and Tribal Nations

Not Eligible:

Individuals applying independently, foreign organizations, and federal agencies

May be Eligible:

For-profit organizations and state or local government agencies

Organizations that are **not eligible to serve as the lead** may still **participate as partners or sub awardees**

One lead proposal **per organization**, but organizations may be a sub awardee on multiple proposals

Additional Considerations:

- Organizations must be able to meet all federal requirements applicable to financial assistance awards, as described in 2 [CFR 200](#) (Uniform Guidance).
- Prospective proposers are strongly encouraged to review the following NSF resources for prospective new awardees to better understand what systems, processes, and internal controls must be in place to manage a federal financial assistance award:

NSF resources for prospective new awardees:

- Information for First-Time Awardees:
<https://www.nsf.gov/awards/first-time-awardees>
- Prospective New Awardee Guide (June 2020):
<https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20032/nsf20032.pdf>

Q & A Panel

NSF Program Directors: Greg Peterson,
Nasser Alaraje, Michal Ziv-El

Moderator: Ilana Herold (NSF Contractor)



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Office Hours

Expect to hold week of May 4 and May 11, 2026

Additional office hours closer to LOI submission and proposal submission

Check the initiative page for details

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/ai-ready>

Submit questions in advance during registration or email ai-ready@nsf.gov



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Join the TIP listserv to receive select updates:

[National Science Foundation - Enter your email
address to subscribe and/or update your personal
information](#)

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Links

Other programs for AI Resource support:

National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) -

<https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/nairr>

NSF Artificial Intelligence Focus area page -

<https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai>

NSF funded programs that relate to AI workforce development:

Workforce Development - Artificial Intelligence NSF –

<https://www.nsf.gov/focus-areas/ai/workforce>

NSF resources for prospective new awardees:

Information for First-Time Awardees - Manage Your Award | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation <https://www.nsf.gov/awards/first-time-awardees>

Prospective New Awardee Guide (June 2020)

<https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20032/nsf20032.pdf>

NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

<https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg>



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