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Comment On: NSF-2025-OGC-0001-0001
Request for Information: Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

On Equitable and Inclusive AI R&D

Comment: The updated Strategic Plan should require targeted investments in AI R&D that address structural inequities, including support for historically underrepresented communities in AI workforce development, research leadership, and data governance.

Supporting Evidence: Prior federal programs (e.g., NSF INCLUDES) have proven that intentional inclusivity boosts innovation and equity (NSF, 2023, https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/nsfincludes/).

On Public Interest AI and Non-Commercial Domains

Comment: The Plan must prioritize foundational research into AI applications for the public sector, such as accessible education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and civic technology, which are often neglected by commercial investment.

Supporting Evidence: AI for social good is underfunded but critical to societal progress (OECD, 2022, “AI for Good: Maximizing the Benefits of AI for Society,” <https://oecd.ai/en/work/ai-for-good>).

On Ethical and Safe AI

Question: What concrete requirements will the Plan set for ethical, safe, and transparent AI development—including bias mitigation, impact assessments, and community engagement—especially for high-stakes domains like public health, justice, and security?

Supporting Evidence: Responsible AI standards and participatory oversight reduce harms and increase public trust (AI Now Institute, 2023, <https://ainowinstitute.org/reports.html>).

On AI for Climate Action

Comment: The Strategic Plan should allocate sustained funding for research on AI-driven climate solutions, including mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice, and incentivize partnerships with frontline communities.

Supporting Evidence: Federal and international studies identify AI as key for accelerating climate resilience, provided there is explicit focus on equity (UNEP, 2022, <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/ai-climate-action>).

On Worker Rights and Labor Impacts

Comment: The Plan must prioritize research on the effects of AI automation on workers, especially in low-wage and marginalized sectors, and fund strategies for fair transition, upskilling, and new forms of worker organizing and protections.

Supporting Evidence: Robust worker-focused AI policy reduces displacement and increases social mobility (MIT Work of the Future, 2021, <https://workofthefuture.mit.edu/research-publications/>).

On Open Science and Data Sharing

Comment: Federal AI research should require open, FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data practices and transparent publication, with safeguards to protect privacy and prevent misuse, enabling broad scientific participation.

Supporting Evidence: Open data accelerates discovery and democratizes innovation (National Academies, 2023, <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2023/03/maximizing-the-benefits-of-open-science>).

On International Collaboration and Standards

Question: How will the Plan support active U.S. engagement in the development of international AI norms and technical standards to ensure democratic, rights-respecting, and interoperable global AI systems?

Supporting Evidence: U.S. participation in global standards bodies is crucial for upholding values and competitiveness (NIST, 2022, <https://www.nist.gov/artificial-intelligence/ai-standards>).

On Community-Led and Participatory Research

Comment: The Plan should dedicate funds to participatory AI research models that empower local communities, workers, and public interest groups to co-design, govern, and evaluate AI systems impacting their lives.

Supporting Evidence: Community-led research delivers more relevant, trusted, and sustainable outcomes (Data & Society, 2022, <https://datasociety.net/library/community-led-ai-research/>).

On Robust AI Infrastructure

Comment: Federal investment must expand access to shared AI infrastructure, including high-performance computing and cloud resources for researchers at non-elite and minority-serving institutions.

Supporting Evidence: Democratized infrastructure closes gaps in opportunity and expands the innovation ecosystem (Brookings Institution, 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/democratizing-ai/>).

On Future Risks and Governance

Question: What specific governance mechanisms will be instituted for high-risk AI domains (e.g., autonomous weapons, critical infrastructure) to ensure public oversight and alignment with democratic values? (Speculative)

Supporting Evidence: Recent scholarship emphasizes need for anticipatory, inclusive governance in emerging AI (Stanford HAI, 2024, <https://hai.stanford.edu/news/anticipating-future-ai-governance>).