PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Received: May 29, 2025
Tracking No. mb9-stwi-enfl
Comments Due: May 28, 2025 **Submission Type:** Web

Docket: NSF-2025-OGC-0001
NITRD_FRDOC_0001

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

Document: NSF-2025-OGC-0001-DRAFT-0249
Comment on FR Doc # 2025-07332

Submitter Information

Organization: 1Day Sooner

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

RFI on the Development of a 2025 National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan

Response to the Request for Information on the Development of the 2025 National AI Research and Development Strategic Plan

Submitted by 1Day Sooner

We thank the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) National Coordination Office for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the 2025 National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research and Development Strategic Plan.

A strong, forward-looking National AI R&D Strategic Plan is critical to maintaining the United States' global leadership in AI. As the RFI highlights, the federal government has a unique and essential role to play in driving AI research that accelerates innovation, strengthens economic and national security, and advances human well-being.

More broadly, we encourage sustained interagency collaboration throughout the development and implementation of the updated Strategic Plan—particularly on shared infrastructure, workforce development, and standards-setting—to ensure that federal investments in AI are not only interoperable and cost-effective, but also aligned with agency missions and carried out in a responsible, accountable manner.

About 1Day Sooner

1Day Sooner is a non-profit organization that leads campaigns in science, policy, and ethics to accelerate the development and equitable deployment of medical innovations targeting humanity's most harmful diseases.

Our submission includes targeted recommendations for revising several key strategies (specifically strategies 2, 5, 6, and 7) from the 2023 National AI R&D Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on applications within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Food and Drug

Administration (FDA). While our recommendations are grounded in biomedical and regulatory applications due to our organizational expertise, we believe the principles and approaches outlined here are broadly applicable across the federal government, and we encourage strong interagency collaboration throughout the entire process.

Recommendations for Updating the 2023 Strategic Plan

Strategy 2: Develop Effective Methods for Human-AI Collaboration

As this strategic area is rewritten, we recommend placing greater emphasis on understanding the needs of the federal workforce before deploying AI tools. Agencies should begin conducting structured surveys or interviews with staff to identify where AI can most effectively reduce burden, improve efficiency, or support decision-making. This should include assessing what types of AI tools—e.g., large language models (LLMs) versus data-driven algorithms—are most appropriate for different tasks, as they offer distinct functionalities. AI R&D should be grounded in real-world use cases and developed in close consultation with the civil servants who will ultimately rely on these systems. In parallel, agencies should evaluate data availability and constraints that may limit AI development or deployment. Building this feedback loop into the research process will be essential for successful implementation.

Strategy 5: Develop Shared Public Datasets and Environments for AI Training and Testing

In revising this strategy, we encourage a sharper focus on internal data readiness as a foundation for responsible AI adoption. At the FDA, for example, effective AI integration requires organizing internal datasets with secure access controls, standardized formatting, and clear metadata. Clean, well-structured data not only supports AI model performance, but also ensures the confidentiality of proprietary submissions. Agencies should also address the challenge of legacy or 'uncleanable' datasets—by issuing clear statements on their usability or outlining plans for modernization and remediation. Investing in robust internal data infrastructure now will position agencies to adopt AI tools that are both effective and trustworthy.

Strategy 6: Measure and Evaluate AI Systems through Standards and Benchmarks

We support the continued emphasis on benchmarking and evaluation, and propose that agencies like the FDA undertake targeted exercises to assess whether large language models (LLMs) can assist in

regulatory review tasks. For instance, the FDA's Office of Digital Transformation and its Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (CERSIs) could lead a benchmark test applying AI tools to previously approved submissions and comparing the output to historical reviewer decisions. This recommendation should be extended to other regulatory agencies such as CDC, CMS, NIH, BARDA, and ASPR to ensure a coordinated approach. Publicizing results would also help build trust and transparency around AI use in federal settings.

Strategy 7: Better Understand the National AI R&D Workforce Needs

This strategy remains vital, however needs to be practically operationalized. We recommend the creation of an "HHS AI Corps"—a dedicated initiative to recruit and embed AI experts across HHS agencies to accelerate technical capacity and provide hands-on support for AI deployment. The Corps should not replace current employees, but instead help expedite work and free up staff to focus on higher-value tasks. At the same time, internal training programs should be launched to prepare existing staff to engage with and supervise AI systems. Familiarity and trust among users will be just as important as technical performance in determining AI's success within government.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and welcome future collaboration to ensure the revised Strategic Plan reflects both the promise and the practical needs of AI adoption across the federal government.

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