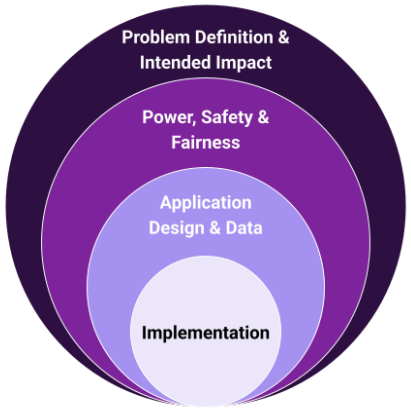
PROJECT EVIDENT

AI Grantmaking Rubric



In our research, documented in Finding the Future: Grantmaker Strategies in AI Investment, six funders engaged in funding AI implementation shared their internal grantmaking rubrics or scoring criteria. We reviewed these artifacts to look for patterns and created a blended investment rubric that includes areas for inquiry and responses.

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	QUESTIONS	ASSESSMENTS
Problem Definition & Intended Impact	Problem Definition	• Is the problem clearly defined, with a well-founded methodology, aligned with the organization's Theory of Change and priorities? • How was AI determined the most appropriate and effective solution compared to non-AI alternatives? • Who are the stakeholders, including the solution's beneficiaries, and how are their needs and definitions of success incorporated into the solution's design and plan?	• Alignment with the organization's Theory of Change • Cost-benefit analysis of other solutions, including non-technological solutions • Thorough landscape and user research to ensure the product addresses an unmet need, incorporating stakeholder and community perspective • Clear quantitative measures of success are determined with stakeholder input and integrated into the project's early stages
	Intended Impact	• What societal value does this application deliver, and how likely would similar work occur without funding? • If successful, how will it impact social outcomes and equity? • Are there liability risks or potentially harmful consequences, such as contributing to the development of more dangerous systems, associated with using this AI?	• Explanation of how the application will foster more equitable outcomes and credible projections of future scale

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	QUESTIONS	ASSESSMENTS
Power, Safety, & Fairness	Power	• What information does the model collect and share, and how does the target audience interact with technology, considering any history of harm or low trust? • Who is the tool designed to empower, and how does it address rights and equity considerations? • Is the use of AI disclosed, can participants opt out, and who creates and monitors the rules governing the tool? • Who owns the innovation, and who can benefit from and build upon it?	• The tool design process included representatives of the community or population it affects, domain experts, and diverse perspectives to ensure its accuracy and relevance • Individuals whose data is used have given consent, and the use of AI is communicated transparently, enabling affected communities to protect their interests and provide oversight
	Safety & Fairness	• What potential negative impacts and risks does the AI solution pose, including the consequences when it is wrong? How thoroughly has the organization explored second and third-order effects? • What mitigation procedures are in place if a red flag is raised during the project's execution? • How will potential harmful consequences or risks be identified, and who is responsible for raising red flags if necessary?	• Active testing to minimize bias for the intended audience, ensuring fairness in the results • Proactive safety and fairness compliance with a robust mitigation plan to address privacy, bias, and other risks throughout the project

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	QUESTIONS	ASSESSMENTS
Application Design & Data	Application Design	• Has the developer/organization considered the tool's deployment in different contexts, and has the model's accuracy and limitations been communicated transparently? • Is there clarity about how the solution works, is it technically feasible, and what evidence supports its ability to deliver on its promises? • How will the tool be tested, rolled out, and monitored, and what methods will ensure its results are clearly communicated to the audience? • What measures has the team taken to optimize the model's accuracy, including precision and recall, and who is responsible for monitoring and reporting its performance?	• Comparison of the AI tool's accuracy to the human process it augments or replaces, and its results are clear and understandable to users and clients • Low-fidelity wireframes, mock-ups, or prototypes to gather feedback from potential users and validate the design with plans to use rapid prototyping and iterative testing • Project plan includes methods to incorporate user feedback throughout the development process, with a clear plan for testing outputs and ensuring the tool meets the needs of its constituents • Consideration of the feasibility of a human-in-the-loop approach, ensuring that it is reasonable to expect human oversight at scale, supported by appropriate training/resources
	Data	**Off-The-Shelf** • Do the tool's data privacy, security policies, and inherent biases align with our definition of success, and how does the organization address potential biases in pre-trained models and test for biased outcomes? **Fine-Tune Model** • How has the organization vetted the data for bias and quality, and do they have the data required to develop a model that accomplishes the proposed task? • How will the organization protect the privacy and security of this data?	**Off-The-Shelf** • Adherence to compliance standards **Fine-Tune Model** • Ownership of necessary data for building a product or training the model • Data has been collected with proper consent, and there is a credible process for regular vetting and cleaning **Custom-Build Model** • Plan to address model drift

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	QUESTIONS	ASSESSMENTS
Implementation	Talent	• Does the organization clearly understand the technical roles and expertise required to achieve its goals, and does it have a capable team with the necessary skills to design, implement, and maintain the solution?	• Leadership support for the project's outcomes • A clear plan for acquiring necessary expertise through current staff, full-time hires, or part-time contractors, with a rationale for their choices
	Cost	• What are the concerns around the solution's long-term maintainability and sustainability, and how will it be maintained financially and technically if it is successful? • What are the costs associated with the tool? Is the funding request appropriate for the scope of work? How will changes or adjustments be handled if needed in the future?	• Vision for a sustainable funding model for the tool's long-term upkeep, including consideration of ongoing costs such as subscription fees or pricing based on usage • Flexible budget, allowing for resource reallocation as necessary • Cost estimates are based on reasonable assumptions, benchmarks, and real quotes from vendors

Definitions

Off-the-shelf AI tools are pre-built, ready-to-use software applications or services designed to perform specific tasks using artificial intelligence without requiring extensive customization.

Fine-tuning a model refers to the process of adjusting a pre-trained machine learning model to perform better on a specific task or dataset by refining its parameters using task-specific data.

A **custom-build** AI model is a tailored artificial intelligence solution designed to address specific business challenges or tasks using proprietary data and specialized algorithms to align with unique organizational needs, ensuring higher accuracy and adaptability to niche requirements.