



EDA AI Upskill Pilot: Data, Impact, & Evaluation

June 23, 2026

Purpose of the Webinar

- Learn the data, impact, & evaluation requirements of the AI Upskill Pilot Program
- Preview data reporting expectations for awarded grantees

Information shared in this presentation do not replace or supersede the contents in the AI Addendum. Please see the AI Addendum for complete instructions and information.

AGENDA

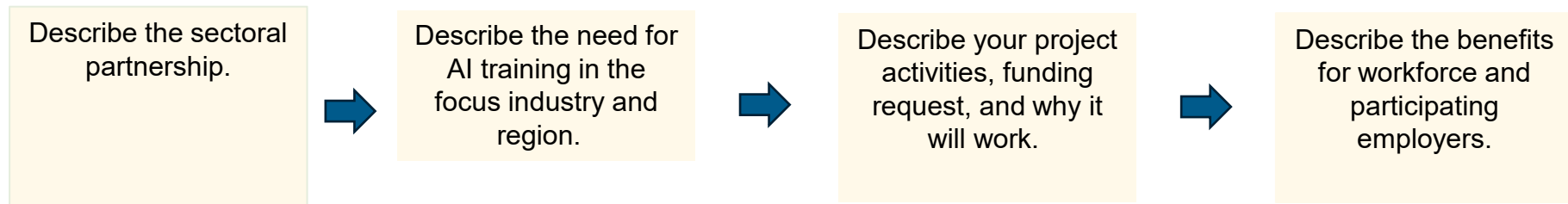
- AI Upskill Accelerator Evaluation Focus
- Applications
- Data Collections
- Program Evaluation

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Project Narrative: Core Concept

The Ask:

Propose a sectoral partnership between entities eligible for funding under the AI Addendum and employers that will design and provide training to incumbent workers and new hires in industry aligned AI skills.



*Refer to page 47, Project Narrative for specific requirements.

AI Upskill Accelerator places a special focus on evaluation to inform best practice.

What do we want to know?

1. Is the field (training providers, employers, other organizations) ready for workforce training in AI skills?
2. For pilot grantees, what is the impact of AI on business and training on workers?
3. What are best practices for workforce training in AI skills?

Evaluation Approach

Applications

Data Reporting

Program
Evaluation

Program Evaluation

For the recipients of this federal funding:

Business Outcomes

What was the impact of using AI on business outcomes?

Worker Outcomes

What was the impact of the training on workers?

Best Practices

NOFO Data Requirements



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Articulate the Need for AI Training in the Region

Four Key Elements of Special Need

	Applicants Should Answer	Strong Proposals will:
Industry Significance	- What the industry's role in the local/regional economy, - How many people does/can the industry employ? - How the industry connects to regional economic development priorities?	- Use labor market data (Ex. BLS, Census, NERDE) - Industry output indicators - Regional workforce strategy references
Existing Use of AI	- What AI tools, systems, or workflows employers are already using; - How widespread adoption is; - What tasks are impacted (e.g., analysis, decision support, automation).	- Have clear examples from participating employers; - Have a description of current AI-enabled tools; - Include supporting evidence of AI product usage.
AI Critical for Competitiveness	- How AI is shaping the industry's productivity, growth, or competitiveness; - What happens if workers are not trained to use AI tools.	- Have commitments from employers - Evidence of emerging sector-wide AI trends - Identify regional economic implications (e.g., efficiency, output, supply chain integration)
Workforce AI Training Need	- What specific skill gaps prevent full AI adoption today? - What tasks/roles are being transformed by AI? - What hiring challenges or productivity losses are currently occurring? - How many workers need upskilling?	- Identify employer-validated competency gaps - Concrete examples of tasks workers cannot yet perform - Include data on unfilled positions, slow productivity, or stalled AI integration - Demonstrate evidence of employer demand for the training

Identify Your Activities

- Does this activity directly address the AI workforce need we identified?
- Is the proper Lead entity identified?
- Are the activities in the right order?
- Is the timeline realistic?

Activity	Lead	Consultant	Timeline
• Conduct AI task and skills needs analysis	• Lead Entity (Applying organization)	• Sectoral Partnership, Employers, training providers, workforce board	2 months
• Develop and/or update AI-aligned curriculum and competency frameworks	• Higher Education partners; Training Providers	• Sectoral Partnership, Employers, Industry Subject Matter Experts	3-4 months
• Recruit Participants and conduct outreach	• Workforce Boards; Community Organizations	• Sectoral Partnership, Employers, Community Organizations	1-2 months before training launch; ongoing
• Deliver AI skills training	• Higher Education partners; Training Providers	• Employer partners for validation; Workforce boards for supports	3-4 months per training cohort
• Coordinate career advancement and job placement pathways	• Lead Entity; Workforce Boards	• Employer partners	Alongside training; ongoing
• Collect and report worker & employer data	• Lead Entity	• All partners providing data	At the start of each training; ongoing throughout grant period

Rule of Thumb on Outcomes

Reminder: Your project's activities and your employer and stakeholder commitments should lead to ambitious but realistic outcomes.



Bottom Line: Don't over-promise and under-deliver.

Applications: Employer List (Section 2, Project Narrative)

- List employers participating in sectoral partnership.
 - Name
 - Employer identification number (EIN)
 - Address

Table: Employer Commitments

Employer Name	Employer Address	Employer Identification Number (EIN)	Description of Commitment <i>(Describe employer commitments for those participating in the sectoral partnership.)</i>	Commitment's Relevance <i>(Provide the relevance of the employer commitments to the proposed project strategy.)</i>

Applications: Employer Identification Number (EIN)

- Nine-digit identification number assigned to businesses operating in the United States by the Internal Revenue Service
- It is sometimes also referred to as a Federal Tax ID Number
- There's no public database for private firms' EINs
 - Therefore, applicants will need to request this information from employer partners.

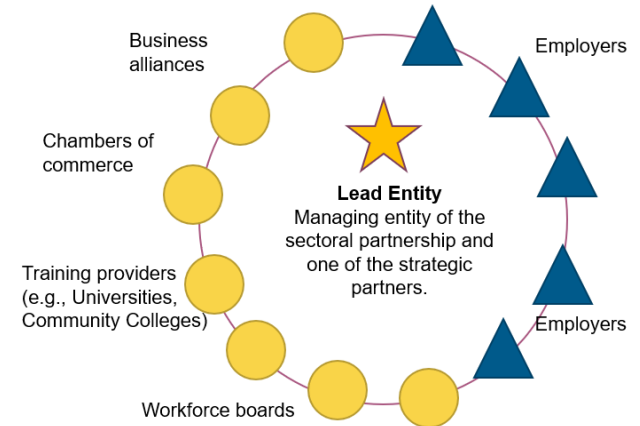
Applications: Stakeholder List (Section 2, Project Narrative)

- List other relevant stakeholders (up to 10) participating in the sectoral partnership.

Table: Other Relevant Stakeholder Commitments

Organization Name (Up to 10)	Description of Commitment(s) (Describe organization commitments for those participating in the sectoral partnership.)	Commitment's Relevance (Provide the relevance of the organization's commitments to the proposed project strategy.)

Sectoral Partnerships



Applications: Commitment Letters

- Describe the commitments of those participating in the sectoral partnership;
- Provide the relevance of the commitments to the proposed project strategy;
- On organization/employer letterhead;
- Signed by an authorizing representative of the organization/company.

Employer Letters will also:

- Detail the hiring commitments of participating employers;
- Describe how the employer is and will be using AI in its business functions;
- Detail the benefits AI-enabled technologies will bring to the employer

Worker Benefits

- Number of individuals **enrolled** in the training program;
- Number of individuals who successfully **complete** a training program;
- Number of participants **placed and/or retained in employment**;
- Number of program participants broken down by **occupation** type;
 - For each occupation, average wages and benefits for workers in the occupation in your region before and after training

Example: Worker Benefits

Table: Project Outcomes

Total Enrollments	Total Completions	Job Outcomes	
		Total Job Placements (New Hires)	Total Incumbent Workers Trained
500	450	200	200

Table: Project Outcomes by Occupation

Name of Job Supported by Training	Anticipated Number of Participants	Average Wages		Average Benefits
		<i>Before Training</i>	<i>After Training</i>	
Technician	50	\$25 per hour	\$33 per hour	Health, retirement, paid-leave (sick, vacation, etc.)

Employer Benefits

- Applications submitted to EDA will help us to better understand how employers are benefitting from using AI and workforce needs to maximize impacts.
- Employer benefits are business impacts due to incorporating AI into processes and training workers.
 - Examples include efficiency, productivity, reduced costs, profit, innovation, customer engagement, outreach, etc.
- Employer benefits can be industry- and occupation-specific, and applicants are required to define benefits for their participating employer partners.

Employer Benefits

Table: Employer-Level Benefits

Employer Benefit	Outcome Description	Baseline Condition	Target or Direction of Change	Measurement Method	Frequency	Employer Role in Measurement
<i>Provide a short name for the outcome</i>	<i>Provide a short description of the outcome.</i>	<i>Describe the metric in the status quo.</i>	<i>With effective training in AI skills, what is the desired change in the metric?</i>	<i>How will this information be collected?</i>	<i>How often will this information be measured? How often will this information be available?</i>	<i>How does the employer in the sectoral partnership provide this information?</i>
Efficiency	Reduce time spent on manual scheduling tasks	12 staff hours/week per site	Decrease in staff hours required	System use logs; time tracking	Quarterly	Submission of system reports from employer(s)

***Note:** These responses in the table are for illustrative purposes. Applicants should propose project outcomes that are ambitious yet feasible.

Pilot Program: Future Evaluation & Scalability

- The AI Upskill Accelerator is a pilot program, which means this funding opportunity places a focus on projects that can be evaluated rigorously during and after the period of performance to inform best practices and support the scaling and replication of successful programs, models, and approaches.

Applications: Future Evaluation (Section 8, Project Narrative)

- Describe how the proposed project and lessons learned from Program Implementation could be valuable to other regions, industries, or employers; and
- Describe an approach that the applicant, if awarded, will pursue to rigorously evaluate the impact of project activities on employee and business outcomes after the period of performance.

Applications: Scalability (Section 8, Project Narrative)

- Describe how the proposed project is taking a unique approach to developing workforce skills in AI; and
- Describe how the approach taken in the proposed project will enable broader use and replication or expansion across the workforce system following successful implementation.

Applications: Sustainability (Section 8, Project Narrative)

- Describe an approach to sustain core program activities beyond the period of federal investment.
 - Potential funding sources
 - Institutional commitments, system alignment
 - Strategies to maintain employer and sectoral partnership engagement.

Award Data Collection



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Data Collections

EDA Workforce Collection

- **Annual Collection**
- Participant PII (names, dates of birth, and addresses)
- Training Providers & Programs
- Training & employment status of participants

Employer Partner Questionnaire

- **Annual Collection**
- Business descriptors
- AI use in business processes
- AI impacts on businesses

Program Participant Questionnaire

- **Pre and Post Training Collection**
- AI use
- AI skills
- Worker sentiment on AI

Data Reporting – Upon Award

- Project goals from application are incorporated into scopes of work
- Progress must be reported on these goals up to five years after award start date
- Grantees can operationalize requirements according to state regulations, sectoral partnership, and local ecosystem
- EDA will provide technical assistance for data reporting upon award
- It is allowable to use EDA award funds for data reporting, consultants, and subawards to support data reporting & evaluation during the period of performance, and there is scoring opportunity for grantees who have a plan for these requirements

Competition Resources

- ❑ AI Addendum Overview Webinar
- ❑ [AI Addendum](#)
- ❑ Recordings of Conducted Webinars *(updated throughout the competition)*
- ❑ [FAQs](#) *(updated throughout the competition)*
- ❑ Technical Assistance Webinars / Office Hours
- ❑ OIE Email (OIE@eda.gov)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINARS*

AI Addendum Overview
May 19, 2026, at 12pm ET

Developing Your Concept
June 4, 2026, at 12pm ET

Budget Best Practices
June 9, 2026, at 12pm ET

Submitting Your Application
June 11, 2026, at 12pm ET

Data, Impact & Evaluation
June 23, 2026, at 12pm ET

*Visit eda.gov/ai-upskill for upcoming webinar access.

SEE
YOU
LATER

An illustration of a brown hand with a green sleeve, waving. There are two small curved lines next to the hand to indicate motion.

Thank You!

- If applicants have questions or need assistance, they are welcome to email OIE@eda.gov.
- Include in the subject line:
“AI Ready Workforce FY 2026”